

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Covington Substation HVAC Replacements

Project Manager: Staci Pfau, NWM-1

Location: King County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.4 Air Conditioning Systems for Existing Equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration proposes to replace failing or end-of-life HVAC units and make cooling system modifications to meet current HVAC design requirements at the Covington Substation Control House and Communication Building in King County, Washington. HVAC replacement activities would include replacing HVAC units or components (roof top, window mount, wall mount, and condensers), installing seismic duct bracing, installing new ducting, replacing exhaust fans, and capping a roof access hatch where one HVAC unit would be removed. Some HVAC units would be replaced in kind, while others would be replaced with a different unit type (for example, a roof-mounted unit replaced with a wall-mounted unit). A new galvanized steel frame that is about 18-inches high, 15-feet long, and 2-feet deep would be placed outside of the rear entry to hold up to three new condenser units. All other work would be conducted within the buildings or would be attached to the building exteriors.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 30, 2018

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

The Covington Substation Control House and Communication buildings are located within the Covington Substation fence line. The buildings are surrounded by existing substation infrastructure in a previously-graveled and paved area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> In a letter dated February 16, 2018, BPA initiated consultation and submitted a no adverse effect determination for the project to the Washington State Department of Historic Preservation (DAHP), Nisqually Indian Tribe, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. DAHP concurred with BPA’s determination on February 26, 2018, and the Nisqually Indian Tribe concurred with BPA’s determination on February 27, 2018. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians did not respond within 30 days.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and the BPA archaeologist. Appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, DAHP, and the appropriate county, state, and Federal agencies should also be notified. • Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. • Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The only ground disturbance proposed associated with the project would be the installation of the steel rack in a previously-leveled and graveled area.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No vegetation would be disturbed by the project.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No wildlife or wildlife habitat, including ESA-listed species, would be disturbed by the project.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**
(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



Explanation: No waterbodies are located within the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are located within the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or groundwater use is proposed.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: No specially-designated land uses are present in the area. The project activities would be consistent and compatible with the existing land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project activities would be consistent and compatible with the visual quality associated with the land use in the project area. New HVAC units and modifications would occur in locations that would not be visually dominant or diminish the exterior quality of the buildings.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation of the steel support frame.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: A temporary increase in noise would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety is anticipated. Any removed materials containing asbestos, lead paint, and/or PCBs would be handled and disposed of by certified contractors.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary: Any removed materials containing asbestos, lead paint, and/or PCBs would be handled and disposed of by certified contractors.

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA is the underlying landowner.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange, ECT-4

Date: April 30, 2018