

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Midway Substation HVAC Replacements

Project Manager: Janice Grounds, TEP-CSB-2

Location: Benton 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 remove and replace failing or end-of-life HVAC units and make cooling system modifications to meet current HVAC design requirements at the Midway Substation Control House in Benton County, Washington. BPA also proposes to replace all existing interior lighting at the site with LED lighting fixtures.

HVAC upgrade activities would include replacing the existing HVAC units and all duct work. The replacement of equipment on the western exterior of the control house would require the expansion of an existing concrete pad by about 5 feet in length. One new 18-inch by 12-inch opening would be installed on an exterior wall for the installation of a new intake vent. No additional new exterior holes would be required. All patching of exterior and interior walls would be done with a similar material and matching color as the current walls. No work would occur outside of the fence line.

All existing interior light fixtures would be replaced with LED light fixtures. The new light fixtures would be similar to the existing fixtures in both appearance and light output.

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/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 15, 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.

Proposed Action: Midway Substation HVAC Replacements

Project Site Description

The Midway Substation is located within the Hanford Reach National Monument in Benton County, Washington. The substation site is north of Umtanum Ridge in a topographically flat location with mature sagebrush vegetation surrounding the substation. The Midway Substation Control House is located within the Midway Substation fence line and the building is surrounded by existing substation infrastructure in a previously-graveled 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The BPA Historian reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The only ground disturbance proposed is associated with the project would be the extension of the concrete pad in a previously-leveled and graveled portion of the substation.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No vegetation, including ESA-listed plant species, would be disturbed by the project.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wildlife or wildlife habitat, including ESA-listed species, would be disturbed by the project.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies are located within the graveled substation.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are located within the graveled substation.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No new wells or groundwater use is proposed.		
8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would be located at the Midway Substation, which is located in the Hanford Reach National Monument. Project-related activities would be consistent with the existing site use and would not result		

in a change to the underlying land use or management of land.

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 temporarily be generated during installation of the exterior project components.

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.

If site access occurs during fire season, workers would adhere to Hanford fire prevention measures, such as limiting off road driving, carrying fire extinguishers, etc.

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. Project staff would follow routine coordination measures with DOE-Richland Hanford staff as needed.

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: August 15, 2018