

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Targhee Substation Expansion

Project No.: P00653

Project Manager: Kelly Gardner TEP-TPP-1

Location: Teton County, Idaho

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric Power Substations and Interconnection Facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to expand its Targhee Substation to install new electrical equipment, stormwater facilities, and landscape plantings. The new electrical equipment to be installed includes a power control assembly, a power voltage transformer, station services racks, automatic transfer switch, and two disconnect switches.

The stormwater facilities include two swales, one along the west side of the substation and one along the south side of the substation, and a detention basin. The swales would be 3 feet wide at the base with 4:1 side slopes for a total width ranging between 20 to 30 feet. The west swale would be about 140 feet long and the east swale would be about 80 feet long. The detention basin, which would be located at the confluence of the two swales, would be 25 feet long by 20 feet wide.

A landscape planting strip about 15 feet wide by 450 feet long would be installed along the west side of the substation. The planting strip would consist of mix of trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses native to southeast Idaho. BPA would install a new water main and water service line to bring water to supply an irrigation system for the planting strip. To bring water to the substation property, BPA would install an 8-inch water line that would tap into an existing water main located on the north side of Bates Road immediately north of the substation. The water main would be placed in a ditch about 6.5 feet deep by 2.5 feet wide that extends about 65 feet south across Bates Road to a new blow-off hydrant. The blow-off hydrant would be placed below ground in an open bottom concrete vault that is 4 feet square by 6 feet deep. From the hydrant, BPA would install a 1.5-inch diameter water service line that extends 64 feet west to the landscaping strip near the substation perimeter fence. The trench for the water service line would be similar dimensions to that of the water main.

Lastly, BPA would construct a new 20-foot-wide by approximately 450-foot-long access road along the west side of the substation. This road would provide construction access for this project as well as access for future operations and maintenance at the substation. Where the new access road intersects with Bates Road, BPA would install a 70-foot-long by 1.5-foot-diameter culvert so as to maintain conveyance within an existing roadside drainage ditch.

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/Justin Moffett

Justin Moffett

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 21, 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: Targhee Substation Expansion

Project Site Description

The proposed project site is existing substation yard and adjacent land that encompasses areas utilized for livestock grazing and county road right-of-way. Vegetation consists of pasture grasses and forbs.

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> BPA consulted with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation in 2013 when it conducted the environmental review for purchase of the land needed for the substation expansion. In that consultation, Idaho SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected. As such, BPA cultural resources staff have determined that no further consultation is required since the expansion does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soils in the project area are gravelly loam, and support grasses and other native and non-native plants. The work site would be restored following excavation and the local topography would be regraded. Erosion control measures would be utilized during soil removal and the area would be revegetated with an appropriate seed mix following project completion.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present. Work would be conducted in an existing transmission line right-of-way and livestock pasture. Any disturbed areas would be seeded with a geographic- and climate-appropriate seed mix. To limit the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, all construction vehicles would be washed prior to entering the project site.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitats are present. All work would be performed in the substation yard, transmission and road rights-of-way, and livestock pasture.</p>		

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



Explanation: The project site is located about 2,000 feet from the nearest stream. Typical erosion control measures would be implemented to limit erosion and sedimentation, and no riparian habitat would be affected.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be 6 feet. Spill prevention measures would be present.

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



Explanation: The project area is located primarily in existing transmission line right-of-way in areas utilized for livestock grazing. No special restrictions apply and no additional land use evaluation has occurred.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The expanded substation would be visually consistent with existing setting. The xeriscape planting strip would screen the substation from future residential development planned west of the substation.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would create temporary dust and vehicle emissions due to construction, but no significant impacts.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project would create temporary noise due to construction activities, but no significant impacts are anticipated. The closest residence is located about 500 feet east of the project site.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety is anticipated. The construction contractor would implement a traffic control plan while installing the water main across Bates Road.

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:

- 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: All work would take place on BPA fee-owned land, which it recently acquired from the adjacent landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Justin Moffett
Justin Moffett ECT-4

Date: February 21, 2018