

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Material Yard Lease Near North Bend Maintenance Headquarters

Project No.: P01482

Project Manager: Jennifer Bachman, TEP-CSB-2

Location: Coos County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to temporarily lease a 4.3 acre parcel of land to be used as a material yard in support of the North Bend Maintenance Headquarters (MHQ) upgrade project. The project activities associated with the upgrades were addressed in a Categorical Exclusion (CX) issued on January 18, 2017 titled “North Bend Maintenance Headquarters Upgrades.” This temporary material yard had not been identified at that time, so it was not included in that CX.

The material yard parcel, currently used as an overflow parking lot, is located approximately 0.6-mile north of the North Bend MHQ. Some of the parking lot is already covered with gravel, although an area 0.75 acre of three inch deep gravel would be applied to expand the parking lot and work area. Materials could be stored onsite for up to two years during construction activities and could include spools of conductor, wooden crates, and metal substation components. All materials would be securely stored within a temporary construction chain link fence. While the leased parcel includes trees near the perimeter, none would be removed or altered as part of the lease. Some small shrubs and a lone holly tree in the center of the parcel would likely be removed to accommodate the gravel parking lot expansion and work area.

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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Dave Kennedy _____ *For*

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 4, 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: Material Yard Lease Near North Bend Maintenance Headquarters

Project Site Description

The North Bend Maintenance Headquarters (MHQ) is located approximately 6 miles north of the town of North Bend, Oregon on the southern Oregon coast. The proposed lease site is located approximately 0.6 mile north of the North Bend MHQ on Wildwood Road. The Pacific Coast Highway 101 is approximately 850 feet to the west of the parcel, and a church is immediately across the street to the east. Coastal residences, Ocean Pines RV Park, undeveloped coastal shrub and tree properties, and small commercial/industrial complexes surround the lease lot. The Pacific Ocean and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area are located immediately west of Highway 101.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA archaeologist initiated Section 106 consultation on September 22, 2017, with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, the Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).</p> <p>On November 28, 2017, the BPA archaeologist determined that implementation of the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect. On December 13, 2017, BPA received concurrence on the no adverse effect determination from SHPO. No responses were received from the above mentioned tribes.</p> <p>Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the EC lead should be notified immediately.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is located on a flat piece of property and no grading or soil displacement is proposed to prepare the site for new gravel application. A portion of the project area is already covered by gravel because it has been used as an overflow parking lot. Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as erosion and sedimentation fences would be implemented to mitigate potential effects to adjacent properties.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no documented occurrences of any plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed plant species. A No Effect Memo has been developed and explains this conclusion in more detail. Plant species present on site that may be impacted by the project include: a variety of native and non-native grasses, Queen Anne's lace (<i>Daucus carota</i>); <i>Aster</i> spp.; pampas grass (<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>), Scotch broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>), blackberry species (<i>Rubus</i> spp.), and ivy (<i>Hedera</i> spp.).</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any wildlife species listed under the ESA in the project area, nor is there suitable habitat for any ESA-listed wildlife species known to occur in Coos County. No designated critical habitat exists in the project area. Therefore, the project would not have an effect on ESA-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat. A No Effect Memo has been developed and explains this conclusion in more detail.

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



Explanation: There are no water bodies or floodplains present within the project area. A freshwater designated critical habitat stream for Coho salmon is located approximately 0.4 miles east of the parcel. BMPs would be implemented to control any potential temporary erosion or sediment concerns; therefore, water bodies, floodplains, and fish would not be impacted as a result of this project. A No Effect Memo has been developed and explains this conclusion in more detail.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands present within the project area. Two freshwater emergent wetlands are located approximately 50 feet and 400 feet west of the parcel's western border. BMPs would be implemented to control any potential temporary erosion or sediment concerns; therefore, wetlands would not be impacted as a result of this project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No grading or soil excavation is proposed; therefore, groundwater and aquifers would not be impacted as a result of this project.

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



Explanation: The project area is an existing gravel lot used for church overflow parking. The project area would be temporarily leased by BPA for the purposes of a material storage yard. No permanent change to the existing land use is proposed; there are no special designations on the property.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Material storage in the project area and the surrounding chain link fence would be temporary. No significant long-term visual impacts would occur as a result of this project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions during material yard usage may occur. BMPs would be implemented to keep dust and emissions to a minimum.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary increase in ambient noise levels during material yard usage may occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: A chain link fence would surround the temporary material yard to prevent unauthorized access and to increase human safety in the project area. No hazardous materials or wastes (i.e. cylinders of nitrogen, sulfur-hexafluoride, acetylene, and oxygen, or product or waste containers/barrels) would be stored in the project area; therefore, no impact to human health or safety would occur as a result of this project.

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: BPA coordinated the lease agreement with the underlying landowner of the project area, Hauser Community Church.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill
Becky Hill
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: January 4, 2018