

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Netkipe Maintenance Headquarters Xeriscaping Design & Installation

**Project Manager:** Carol Krohn—TPC-TPP-4

**Location:** Franklin County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B5.1 Actions to Conserve Energy or Water

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the existing landscaping at its Netkipe Maintenance Headquarters in Pasco, Washington with xeriscaping, to help reduce the reliance on supplemental irrigation at the site. Approximately 1.5 acres of lawn and existing landscaping would be removed and replaced with drought tolerant plants that would require significantly less irrigation. The work would include re-planting of four existing stormwater bioswales on the property.

The new plantings would include but are not limited to the following species: Armstrong gold red maple, chokecherry, serviceberry, sagebrush, gray rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, western white yarrow, balsamroot, fleabane, buckwheat, biscuitroot, penstemon, phlox, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and kinnikinnick. A weed barrier would be installed prior to planting. Compost, soil amendments, and top soil would be applied to the new plantings. Shrubs and trees would be mulched with wood chips. Additional river rock and accent boulders would be imported to the site. Some bare ground would remain to provide habitat to ground-nesting bees, and a small water rock basin would provide a water source for pollinators.

Irrigation would be installed for this project and used until the new vegetation is established. After the new plants are established, the irrigation would be left in place for use during times of drought.

The existing pergola on the west side of the building would have additional slats added to the roof to provide more shade on the employee patio.

The project would require use of small mechanical equipment, such as a mini excavator, small backhoe and a walk-behind trench machine. Supplies and equipment would be brought to the project location via a flatbed truck and debris would be hauled off site by a dump truck.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 21, 2018

Attachment: 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 project location is at the Netkipe Maintenance Headquarters facility in Pasco, Washington. The facility is located in Section 21, Township 9 North, Range 30 East. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat terrain. The neighboring parcels are comprised mostly of commercial/industrial use and agricultural fields.

A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies in the location that the project is occurring.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project was reviewed by BPA's cultural staff and it was determined that the site has had extensive previous disturbance from the recent construction of the facility; therefore, BPA has determined the undertaking does not have the potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project involves minimal ground disturbance.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species are present in the project area.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species are present in the project area. The project would improve habitat for pollinator species by planting a variety of native forbs and shrubs, which would offer a variety of blooms throughout the growing season. Additional pollinator protection would include leaving bare ground for nest building, and the installation of a shallow water feature at the site.		

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



Explanation: The project area does not have water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project site is in an arid climate and does not have any jurisdictional wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project would improve visual quality by increasing the professional and well-maintained appearance of the Netkipe Maintenance Headquarters.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during landscape installation; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: There may be minimal temporary construction noise, which would be comparable to ambient noise at the project location.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact.

### **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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The project is occurring at a BPA facility. There are no residential homes in the vicinity.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger  
Beth Belanger, ECT-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: May 21, 2018