

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Custer Substation Vehicle Storage Building Demolition Project

Project Manager: Gerri Colburn

Location: Whatcom County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.23 Demolition and Disposal of Buildings.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to demolish the Vehicle Storage Building located at the Custer Substation in Whatcom County, WA. The 1,450 square-foot building is of wood frame construction with metal siding and overhead doors, and was built in 1996. The building is no longer needed and is being removed to make room for possible future substation work.

The Vehicle Storage Building will be demolished and removed, the concrete pad will be torn up, backfilled, and levelled, and compacted gravel will be placed over the top to match the rest of the substation yard.

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/ Douglas F. Corkran

Douglas F. Corkran

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 29, 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 project is located in far northwestern Washington, in Whatcom County, near the City of Blaine. The area is mostly flat rural agricultural land, with rural residences and some forested areas.

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 Custer Substation Vehicle Storage Building was determined to not be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places since it was constructed in 1996. The only ground disturbing work associated with the project would take place in the substation yard, which has been extensively graded and disturbed, and would not extend into hitherto undisturbed soils. BPA has determined the undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. The Oregon SHPO concurred with BPA's determination on October 15, 2018.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Ground disturbing work would take place within the fenced substation area, however; this disturbance would only affect a minor amount of fill material in the substation, and surrounding soils and geology would not be affected by the project.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a fenced, rocked substation yard, with no vegetation. No plants would be affected by the project.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a fenced, rocked substation yard, with no wildlife habitat present. No wildlife species would be affected 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> The area of disturbance is located within a fenced, rocked substation yard, with no water bodies. No water bodies, floodplains or fish would be affected by the project.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a fenced, rocked substation yard, with no wetlands. No		

wetlands would be affected by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The area of disturbance is located within a fenced, rocked substation yard. No hazardous materials that could affect groundwater or aquifers are in the building to be demolished. No groundwater or aquifers would be affected by the project.

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



Explanation: The project would not change the current land use of the substation; it would continue to be operated as a substation.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Removal of the Vehicle Storage Building would slightly reduce the overall visibility of the substation. There would be no or improved impacts to visual quality as a result of the project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Minor releases of fugitive dust would likely occur during the demolition and site work associated with the project. These impacts would be temporary and transient, with no long term or permanent impacts to air quality due to the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Minor construction noise would be produced as part of the demolition and site work activities. Once the Vehicle Storage Building is removed, there would be no change to existing noise conditions and thus no noise-related impacts due to the project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No new health or safety risks would be caused by removal of the Vehicle Storage Building. The substation would continue to operate as it does today. There would be no change to existing conditions and thus no impacts to health and safety due to the 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: There are no residences adjacent to the substation so no notification is necessary.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas F. Corkran
Douglas F. Corkran ECT-4

Date: October 29, 2018