

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Maupin Substation Control House Demolition

**Project Manager:** Debbie Staats – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Wasco County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 – Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to remove the outdated control house at Maupin Substation to accommodate additional equipment to meet future needs. Equipment used to perform this work may include a combination of dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, cranes, and work trucks. All work would take place within the substation fenced areas.

**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/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 17, 2019

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:** Maupin Substation Expansion and Control House Replacement

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## Project Site Description

The proposed project would be located in the Maupin Substation yard on BPA-owned property, located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the town of Maupin, Oregon in the BPA Redmond District. The project area is graveled substation yard. The land use in the surrounding area is rangeland.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The substation and existing control house has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. BPA has determined that removal of the control house would result in an adverse effect to historic resources. To mitigate for these adverse effects, BPA has developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Oregon SHPO that requires BPA to document the history of the substation through interviews with people involved with its design and construction and to permanently preserve some of the existing substation equipment before it is dismantled or destroyed. The MOA was signed on April 15, 2019.</p> <p>All work would take place in previously disturbed substation yard and it is highly unlikely any cultural materials would be unearthed during demolition of the control house. However; in the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the contractor would stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation; and the appropriate local, state, and Federal agencies. The contractor would implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering and would take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of this project would involve removal of the foundation from within the substation yard area that has already been disturbed, which would not significantly impact geology and soils.</p>		
<b>3. Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no Federal/state special-status plant species in or near the project area.</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status wildlife species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p>		

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



Explanation: The project is located in a dry upland area. No floodplains are present within a mile of the proposed work area. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground-disturbing activities.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project area is in a dry upland area, with no shallow groundwater or aquifers. Control house removal would not affect groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: The land is currently used for substation operations. No change in land use would occur from control house removal and project activities would not impact land use. No specially-designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be minor changes to the visual quality of the area as a result of the removal of the control house; however, BPA transmission line structures and other utility structures do exist immediately adjacent to the project area with similar visual characteristics. No residences or other sensitive viewing areas are located near the project area. The removal of the control house building would not create a significant change in visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; small amounts of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some minor temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours as the control house is being demolished. There are no residences or other sensitive areas nearby that would be disturbed by demolition noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

### **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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

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

Description: All activities would take place on BPA-owned land within the Maupin Substation property. BPA Realty would contact affected landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Doug Corkran  
Doug Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist, ECT-4

Date: May 17, 2019