

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Covington Substation Pedestrian Sidewalk Replacement

Project No.: PID5037

Project Manager: Christopher Ross – NWM-1

Location: King, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: The existing pedestrian walkway in front of the Covington Untanking Tower would be replaced due to some cracks causing safety hazards. The entire 10'W x 75'L walkway from the parking lot up to the steps leading to the doorway would be replaced with similar material to match the existing sidewalk. The corner of the stairway landing has some spalling taking place and repair to the landing would also be completed as part of the project.

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, Jul. 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/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel Date: September 4, 2019
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

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 Covington Substation Pedestrian Sidewalk Replacement project is located in the sidewalk area leading to the BPA Covington Substation Untanking Tower building in King County, WA. The site is accessible by paved roads. The site is located in Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Section 36.

The site is located about 1.4 miles southeast of Lake Meridian. The intermittent Jenkins Creek is located about 500 feet south of the project site and beyond the substation boundaries.

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> The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the replacement of the pedestrian pathway and repair of the stair landing do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources. The removal and replacement of the sidewalk would have no effect to archaeological resources because the area has already been excavated and paved in the past and the action does not have potential to affect the NRHP-listed Covington Substation.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There would be minimal soil disturbance for installation of the pedestrian pathway and repair of the stair landing. The new pathway would not involve additional excavation work beyond the existing grade of the pathway, with only leveling and re-compacting as necessary.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would be occurring outside the BPA Covington Substation Untanking Tower building in the existing pathway area. Impacts to some grass lawn next to the pathway may occur during installation, and would be replaced or reseeded. No impacts to the trees next to the pathway would be expected.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The work would be outside of an established BPA substation building. No trees would be removed, and the sites are not identified to provide northern spotted owl habitat or nesting sites. Construction of the new pathway and repair of the stair landing would occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed or special-status species.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: The site is located about 1.4 miles southeast of Lake Meridian. Jenkins Creek is located about 500 feet south of the project site. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be near the intermittent stream.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be temporary closure of the pathway leading to the Untanking Tower building for the installation of the new sidewalk and repair of the stairway landing.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment. The new sidewalk pathway would use similar material to match with the existing sidewalk.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during the removal and replacement of the sidewalk. Dust would be kept to a minimum in adhering to BMPs for dust control. There would be small, sporadic increases in machine exhaust during active construction work for the sidewalk repair.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours by use of construction equipment during the project. No ongoing noise increase.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No risk to human health and safety anticipated.

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 Facilities would be in coordination with BPA Covington Substation personnel for completion of the project.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: September 4, 2019