

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Schultz Maintenance Headquarters Parking and Entry Road Paving Project

**Project No. (if applicable):** 4317

**Project Manager:** Christopher Ross – NWM-1

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to pave the existing entry road and parking lot of the Schultz Maintenance Headquarters. The current parking lot and entry road are not paved and are covered with gravel. Each year damage from rainfall and stormwater runoff creates potholes and washouts, carrying away road material and causing erosion. BPA would pave the entry road and parking lot to manage stormwater runoff and reduce annual maintenance.

The proposed project would pave approximately 1.6 acres of the existing gravel parking lot and entry road. Culverts under the entry road would be cleaned and cemented in place. The project would include addition of base aggregate rock, grading, and compaction as necessary to create a level surface for asphalt paving. Dump trucks, steam rollers, excavators, and graders would be used in the construction process. Temporary parking and staging of materials and equipment would be located adjacent to the project location in preexisting gravel lots.

**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/ Deepinder Sandhu*

Deepinder Sandhu

Natural Resource Specialist Student Trainee

Concur:

*/s/ Katey Grange*

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 3, 2020

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:** Schultz Maintenance Headquarters Parking and Entry Road Paving Project

## Project Site Description

The project site is located at the Schultz Maintenance Headquarters and Substation in Kittitas County, WA (Township 19 North, Range 19 East, Section 19). Nearby land uses include small scale agriculture and residential. An ephemeral drainage crosses under the entry road in an existing culvert. No wetlands are located in or near the project work areas.

## 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"/>

Explanation: The BPA Historian has reviewed the undertaking and determined that there would be no potential to effect historic properties. All work proposed as part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard and existing entry road prism; therefore, there is no potential for effect to cultural resources.

2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Minimal new disturbance is anticipated. Predominantly, ground disturbing activities would occur on the existing entry road prism and parking area. These areas would be stabilized with asphalt paving after ground disturbance.

Note: The following minimization measures would be implemented.

- During construction all appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP) would be used to implement site specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.

3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Minimal disturbance to vegetation is anticipated. Vegetation may be crushed in those locations where equipment would be accessing the project area. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species and no impacts to state sensitive plant species are anticipated.

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4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: In general, the project would have minimal noise and disturbance impacts to wildlife and habitat related to equipment noise and human presence. No impacts to state sensitive species are anticipated and the project would have no effect to ESA-listed species.

Note: The following minimization measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitat.

- Drive on existing access roads
- Reduce work area footprint to the least necessary to safely do the work
- Crush vegetation in place of removal
- Stabilize and seed with a geographic and climate-appropriate seed mix approved by the landowner

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

(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



The proposed project may have minimal and temporary impacts to ephemeral drainages during culvert installation. Due to the limited ground disturbance and use of BMPs, sediment from ground disturbance work other than the culvert installations is not anticipated to enter waterways.

Note: The following minimization measures would be implemented to prevent sediment or contaminants from reaching any waterbodies.

- Appropriately stocked spill response kits would be located on vehicles, other equipment, and storage yards used on this project.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No ground disturbing activities are anticipated in wetlands. Erosion control measures would be implemented to prevent sedimentation.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No impacts to ground water or aquifers are anticipated due to the relatively deep level of ground water within the project area.

Note: The following minimization measures would be implemented to minimize groundwater contamination potential.

- Appropriately stocked spill response kits would be located on vehicles, other equipment, storage areas, and landing zones used on this project.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact existing land uses.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project would have a minimal impact to visual quality. The existing gravel entry road and parking lot would be paved with asphalt, which would be consistent with the existing visual character of the site.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary and minor dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area from use of vehicles and equipment during project implementation. There would be no long-term changes in air quality following completion of the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Project-related noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change from current ambient conditions.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts to human health and safety are expected as a result of project activities.

**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: All work would take place on BPA fee-owned land.

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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/ Deepinder Sandhu

Deepinder Sandhu, EPR-4

Student (Natural Resource Specialist)

Date: March 3, 2020