

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Midway Untanking Tower Door Repair

**Project Manager:** Janice Grounds—TEPF-CSB-2

**Location:** Benton 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 repair the existing roll-up garage door of the untanking tower building at the Midway Substation. The untanking tower is a tall building that was originally used for making repairs to transformers, which could be rolled into the building for maintenance activities. The repairs would consist of replacing the glass windows, replace caulk and roller mechanicals.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 18, 2020

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 proposed project area is at BPA's Midway Substation, on the Hanford Reach National Monument, which is part of the Hanford Site, in Benton County, Washington. It is in Section 14, Township 13 North, Range 24 East. The site is relatively flat, but steep slopes rise precipitously immediately to the south. Midway Substation is in the Hanson Creek-Columbia River Watershed. The nearest body of water is an unnamed stream, located 0.25 miles south of the project area. The Columbia River is located 0.75 miles north of the substation. There are no wetlands or waterbodies at, or within close proximity to the site.

## 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The untanking tower building was constructed in 1941 and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as a contributing and individually significant resource. The proposed project was reviewed by BPA's Section 106 Historian and determined to have no adverse effect to the building's eligibility for listing on the NRHP.</p> <p>On February 13, 2020, a no adverse effect determination letter was sent to the following consulting parties: Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Nez Perce Tribe, Wanapum Tribe, and Yakama Nation. The Nez perce concurred with BPA's determination on February 13, 2020; DAHP concurred on February 19, 2020; the CTUIR concurred on March 10, 2020. As of March 13, 2020, the Wanapum Tribe and Yakama Nation have not responded.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground-disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not impact any vegetation, including Federally-listed or special-status plant species.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The work is occurring at a substation facility and would not impact wildlife. The noise levels of the door repairs would be consistent with ambient noise of the operations at the substation.</p>		

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

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



Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species; therefore, there would be no impacts to these resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project area does not contain wetlands; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project does not involve any ground-disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: Because the project would occur at an existing building within the substation fence line, there would be no change to land use or land use designation (Hanford Reach National Monument) as a result of the project.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no substantial change to the visual quality of the project area. The window repairs to the untanking tower door would improve the exterior view of the building.

10. **Air Quality**



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

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activities all standard safety protocols would be followed. Repairing the door would increase safety and security at the site.

### **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 building and underlying land is owned by BPA, and there are no residences in the surrounding area; therefore, no landowner notification would be required.

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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  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: March 18, 2020