

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** New Snohomish County PUD Equipment at Snohomish Substation

**Project No.:** N0751

**Project Manager:** Chad Caldwell – TPCF-Olympia

**Location:** Snohomish County, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.7 Electronic Equipment

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would be allowing Snohomish PUD remove a microwave radio waveguide and dish located at the BPA Snohomish substation. BPA would also allow Snohomish PUD to retire its existing electrical communication equipment in rack H1 of the substation control house and install a new communication system in the rack. This would include the shelf, power module, real-time automation controller, analog input module, and digital input module. Snohomish PUD would install, own, operate, and maintain this equipment in the rack in accordance with its access agreement with BPA.

**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/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 13, 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:** New Snohomish County PUD Equipment at Snohomish Substation

## Project Site Description

The New Snohomish County PUD Equipment at Snohomish Substation is located within the property of the BPA Snohomish Substation. The site is located in Township 28 North, Range 5 East, and Section 12.

The substation is accessible from paved roads in an area adjacent to suburban and commercial development. The substation is located about 4,000 feet north of the Snohomish River. Some freshwater shrub wetland is located on the north side of the substation.

## 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The BPA archaeologist and historian reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the replacement of the equipment do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur, so there would be no impacts to soils and geology.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur and no plants would be disturbed.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in existing, fenced facilities. No wildlife habitat present.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in existing, fenced facilities; no water or fish resources present.		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Work would occur in existing, fenced facilities where no wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No change in the visual character of the facilities would occur.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with vehicle traffic would occur during project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with installation activities would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Any hazardous materials such as batteries generated would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste disposal facility.

**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: BPA Transmission will be in coordination with Snohomish County PUD for completion of the project. BPA is the underlying landowner.

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

Date: May 13, 2020