

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** HVAC Replacement at Shelton Substation

**Project Manager:** Sean B. LaFreniere, NWM-1

**Location:** Mason County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.4 Air conditioning systems for existing equipment; B1.11 Fencing

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to upgrade the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the Shelton Substation control house in Shelton, Mason County, Washington (Township 20 North, Range 4 West, Donation Land Claim 37). The existing HVAC system, which consists of three wall-mounted Bard units, does not provide adequate heating or cooling to the control house.

BPA would either replace the three wall-mounted Bard HVAC units in kind, or would replace the Bard units with HVAC units mounted on a new concrete pad located outside of the control house. The new concrete pad would be approximately 10 feet by 10 feet and would be installed to a depth of approximately 10 inches. The concrete pad would be located in previously-disturbed gravel fill material either inside the substation yard or immediately outside of the substation fence at the southeast corner of the control house. If located outside of the substation yard, BPA could also install approximately 30 feet of new chain-link security fencing topped with barbed wire and an access gate to prevent unauthorized access. Duct work, wiring, and other components of the HVAC system inside the control house would be removed and replaced or reused, where possible. BPA may also widen existing holes or cut new holes in the control house exterior wall to accommodate the new size or shape of the replacement equipment. Once the HVAC system is replaced, all remaining holes in the exterior walls would be patched and painted to match the existing control house façade.

All materials and equipment staging would be located inside the control house or outside within previously disturbed and graveled areas or within the paved parking lot. All excavated fill material would be stored temporarily and then deposited elsewhere on-site. All demolished material and decommissioned equipment would be appropriately disposed of off-site, according to all applicable local, state, and Federal regulations.

**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);



# 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:** HVAC Replacement at Shelton Substation

## **Project Site Description**

The project site is located entirely on Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) fee-owned property at BPA's Shelton Substation in Shelton, Mason County, Washington (Township 20 North, Range 4 West, Donation Land Claim 37). All project activities would occur inside the existing control house and outside within previously disturbed graveled areas or within the paved parking lot. Little to no vegetation is present within the project site. Areas of ground disturbance are underlain by the Carstairs soil series, which is not hydric. No waterbodies or wetlands are present within 1,000 feet of the site. Land use surrounding the project site is primarily urban development with a mix of commercial and industrial properties. Olympic Highway, a heavily trafficked thoroughfare, is less than 100 feet west of the site.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Shelton Substation is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and no major interior or exterior building modifications are proposed. No archaeological resources would be impacted as all potential ground disturbance would occur in previously disturbed and graveled areas within the substation yard or immediately outside of the substation fence. Therefore, the proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities could include excavating for a new 10-foot by 10-foot concrete pad to be installed approximately 10 inches below grade. Approximately 30 feet of new chain-link fencing could also be installed, if required. All potential ground disturbance would occur within previously disturbed and graveled areas within the substation yard or immediately outside of the substation fence.

Notes:

- BPA and its contractors would implement best management practices (BMPs) to address temporary erosion and sediment control, if required.

### **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any vegetation removal or management, and all access roads, staging areas, and construction areas are graveled or paved with little to no

vegetation. No suitable special-status plant species habitat is present. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on special-status plant species or habitats.

#### **4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary wildlife disturbance could occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. However, wildlife species that could be present in the area would likely be habituated to this level of human activity given surrounding land uses. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on special-status wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on special-status fish species or habitats.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact wetlands.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: It is unlikely that ground disturbance would be deep enough to intersect groundwater or aquifers, if present. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

Notes:

- BPA and its contractors would implement BMPs to reduce the potential for inadvertent spills of hazardous materials that could enter groundwater or aquifers, if required.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require a change in land use and would not impact specially-designated areas.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Although the project would result in minor yet perceptible changes in the appearance of the substation (e.g., new HVAC equipment configuration, new segment of chain-link fence), the final appearance would be largely consistent with the existing appearance of the site. The project site is not located in a visually sensitive area.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary and minor dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during construction. Following completion of the proposed project, there would be no long term change in air quality.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, use of vehicles, machinery, and equipment and general construction activities could temporarily and intermittently increase noise above current ambient conditions during daylight hours. However, noise from operation of the new HVAC system would not exceed current ambient noise conditions. The proposed project would comply with all applicable noise ordinances.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA and its contractors would adhere to all safety requirements outlined in the BPA Substation Safety Manual. Hazardous materials would be properly handled and disposed of off-site, according to all applicable local, state, and Federal regulations. Therefore, the proposed project would not be expected to impact human health and 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: N/A

**Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.**

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The project site is on BPA fee-owned property. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination was conducted.

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

Signed: <u>/s/ W. Walker Stinnette</u>	<u>April 26, 2021</u>
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4	Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist	
Salient CRGT	