

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Snohomish Substation Vehicle Storage Building Pole Replacement Project

Project Manager: Christopher Ross NWM-1

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric Power Substations and Interconnection Facilities.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace structural components of the existing vehicle storage building at the Snohomish Substation with like materials and construction. The current structure is a wood-framed metal roof supported by 18 wood poles buried in the ground. Eleven (11) wood poles would be replaced while the roof structure remains in place. New wood poles would be directly embedded at least 4 feet into the ground and the old poles removed. Temporary shoring would be used to support the roof while replacing the poles.

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/ Douglas Corkran

Douglas Corkran

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>November 1, 2021</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
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.

Proposed Action: Snohomish Substation Vehicle Storage Building Pole Replacement Project

Project Site Description

The vehicle storage building is located within the Snohomish Substation fenced and graveled yard area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place within the Snohomish Substation yard. BPA's archaeologist reviewed the proposed project in August 2019 and made a determination of no potential to affect cultural resources. The vehicle storage building was assessed for historical significance and was determined to be not eligible by BPA's historian on January 10, 2020. No historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The existing poles were treated with wood preservative prior to their original installation. Wood poles and any soil contaminated with wood preservative would be disposed of in a BPA-approved "Subtitle-D" line landfill with leachate control. No impacts to geology and soils are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in a graveled substation yard with no plants present. No impacts to plants would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in a graveled substation yard with no wildlife present. No impacts to wildlife would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in a graveled substation yard with no water bodies present. Stormwater within the yard is controlled and managed. No releases of hazardous materials or wood preservatives are expected from the project. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish are expected.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in a graveled substation yard with no wetlands present. Stormwater within the yard is controlled and managed. No releases of hazardous materials or wood preservatives to any nearby wetlands are expected from the project. No impacts to wetlands are expected.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in a graveled substation yard. Stormwater within the yard is controlled and managed. No releases of hazardous materials or wood preservatives to groundwater are expected from the project. No impact to groundwater is expected.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located within an existing substation yard and would be replaced like for like. The use of the structure and the overall land use would remain the same. No impacts to land use are expected.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The existing wood poles would be replaced in kind with new wood poles. No changes in the visual characteristics of the building would occur. No impacts to visual quality are expected.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor releases of fugitive dust and vehicle emissions would occur during project construction. Overall, no long-term impacts to air quality would result from the project.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor construction equipment-related noise would occur during construction but would be similar in nature to other noise-producing activities at the substation. No long-term impacts from noise are expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Poles and soils containing wood preservative would be disposed of in BPA-approved "Subtitle D" landfills with a leachate control system permitted to accept treated wood waste and soil contaminated with wood preservative. Spill kits would be located on site during construction to immediately control any leaks of oils and fluids used in construction equipment. Temporary shoring would be used when poles are removed to prevent damage or collapse of the structure. No impacts to human health and safety would result from the project.

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: BPA is the underlying landowner; no notification is required.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran November 1, 2021
Douglas Corkran, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist