

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Huard Road Line Tap and Revenue Meter

**Project No.:** P04381 - L0467

**Project Manager:** Dianne Bonner – TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** Benton County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities; B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install jumpers between the Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) substation tap line and structures 4/4 and 4/5 of BPA's Prosser Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain No. 1 Transmission Line between. A revenue meter would also be installed within the substation. Jumper installation and meter installation would be needed to support a line interconnection request from BREA to support irrigation activities.

All BPA work would be from the existing BPA right-of-way or from existing access roads. A line truck would be used to install the jumpers and no ground disturbance would occur. No new access roads would be needed for this project. BPA would use existing roads and no landings, staging, borrow or disposal areas are proposed for the proposed action. No new structures are proposed and no existing structures would be modified or replaced. BPA is not planning to conduct any subsurface work.

**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/ Michelle Eraut*

Michelle Eraut, EC-4

Deputy Executive Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange February 11, 2022

Katey C. Grange 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:** Huard Road Line Tap and Revenue Meter

## **Project Site Description**

The project is located in rural Benton County, Washington near the intersection of North Hinzerling and West Huard Roads. Because of heavy agricultural use, the site is completely level and soils are loose and sandy with scattered weeds. There are no waterbodies or wetlands near the project area.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA archaeologist reviewed the area of potential affect and a prior cultural resource survey conducted in this area, and determined the undertaking would result in no adverse effect on historic properties, per §36 CFR 800.5(b). Section 106 consultation was initiated and completed with: the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama; the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No soil disturbance is expected as the work to install jumpers would occur above ground from line trucks accessing the site via established roads or access roads; and, the revenue meter installation would occur within the substation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is devoid of vegetation except scattered weeds.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Wildlife that could forage in or around the area may temporarily scatter from construction noise and activity; and this level of noise and activities is not unlike the same generated by the existing roadway or surrounding agricultural activities.

**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 occur at or near this location.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands exist at this location.

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no activities associated with this action that have the potential to effect groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Utilities are an accepted land use at this location. There are no specially-designated lands at this location.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The revenue meter would be visible only within the Benton REA substation. The tap lines would be noticed by those with a utility-trained eye; and are otherwise visually consistent with transmission infrastructure.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary dust could be generated from the line truck and one or two other vehicles that could be on-site during installation.

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary noise would occur during daylight hours for the duration of the installation. Noise levels would be consistent with surrounding agricultural activities and vehicles along Hinzerling and Huard Roads.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Installation would be completed by BPA maintenance crews from a line truck. Flaggers would not be required.

### **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's Customer Service Engineer and Realty Specialist would notify and coordinate the installation schedule with Benton REA. If the access road south of Benton REA's substation is utilized, a notice would be provided to the landowner one month in advance of the installation. No other land owners are involved and therefore no additional notifications, involvement or coordination 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/ Michelle Eraut February 11, 2022  
Michelle Eraut, EC-4 Date  
Deputy Executive Manager