

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: City of Richland Gateway Substation Meter

Project No.: L0462

Project Manager: Brian Salois

Location: Benton, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.1.7 Electronic Equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to have a BPA revenue meter installed in the control house of the City of Richland's new substation called Gateway. The City of Richland built a new 115/12.5 kV substation in Richland, WA to support future load growth and increase service reliability and the new revenue meter would support the interconnection of the substation to the grid. The City of Richland would install a solid state, bi-directional SEL-735 pre-built revenue meter for BPA in the metering rack in the control house of Gateway Substation at their expense.

At Gateway Substation, BPA would, at BPA's expense, provide the pre-made meter design files, the Bill of Material, and provide the cell modem-antenna. At Gateway Substation, BPA would commission the new meter, inspect and test the new revenue metering current transformers and potential transformers and perform in-service checks when the substation is energized. Upon completion of the project, BPA would own and maintain the new revenue meter at Gateway Substation.

The project would occur within an existing substation facility, would not require major exterior building modification, would not require major interior building modifications, and would not require any new ground disturbing activities.

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:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>March 17, 2022</u>
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: L0462 City of Richland Gateway Substation

Project Site Description

The proposed project would be at the City of Richland's new Gateway Substation in Benton County, Washington.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA Archaeologist reviewed proposed activities involved for the revenue meter installation and determined that that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance for installation and testing of the revenue meter at the Gateway Substation. There would be no impacts to soils and geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur and no plants would be disturbed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur within existing substation facility. No wildlife present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur within existing substation facility. No water body or fish present.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur within existing substation facility. No wetlands are present at the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The meter would be installed and tested at the existing substation facility. No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

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

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with vehicle traffic to the substation would occur for the installation.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with installation and testing of the meter. No ongoing noise increase expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts expected.

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 Transmission will be in coordination with the City of Richland for access to the Gateway Substation.

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 March 17, 2022
Christopher H. Furey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist