

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Lund Hill Battery Energy Storage System Interconnection Project

**Project No.:** G0717

**Project Manager:** Cherilyn Randall

**Location:** Klickitat County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.7 Electronic equipment; B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install communications and electronic control equipment at Dittmer and Munro control centers, new RAS and SCADA equipment, a new metering system, and a rack inside Avangrid's control house, and wiring and appurtenances at the patch panel and relay house at BPA's Rock Creek Substation. This work would allow a customer, Avangrid, to interconnect a 75-megawatt, 4-hour battery energy storage system (BESS) to BPA's Federal Columbia River Transmission System. BPA would not fund or carry out any ground-disturbing activities or substation structural modifications.

The BESS would connect to the generation distribution transmission line that supports Avangrid's existing Lund Hill solar facility (G0242, G0420). The Lund Hill solar facility's distribution line connects to BPA's 230-kV Rock Creek Substation.

**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.

Becky Hill  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
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:** Lund Hill Battery Energy Storage System Interconnection Project (G0717)

## **Project Site Description**

The project site is located near BPA's Rock Creek Substation in Klickitat County, Washington. The substation is located in WA T4N R18E sections 34 and 35, adjacent to the developer's generation facility. The project site is located about 3 miles north of the Columbia River, and 14 miles east of Goldendale, Washington. All work would take place inside existing substations and control houses.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: On August 27, 2024, BPA's historian and archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these types of activities would have No Potential to Cause Effects on historic properties or cultural resources.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed; therefore, so there would be no impacts to plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place inside of existing substations and control houses. No wildlife or wildlife habitat would be impacted.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, fish, or fish habitat.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

## **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 existing facilities would occur and no new facilities would be constructed.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with increased vehicle traffic may be produced.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Noise associated with construction traffic would be consistent with existing vehicle and operation noise at substation.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No hazardous materials would be generated or used for this 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: All work would take place inside the existing BPA Rock Creek Substation and existing facilities; no landowner notification 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:

Becky Hill  
Environmental Protection Specialist