Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Eugene Substation Control House HVAC Replacement

Project Manager: Christopher Ross, NWMS – 1

Location: Lane County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.4 Air conditioning systems for existing equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the rooftop heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system at BPA's Eugene Substation control house in Lane County, Oregon. The existing HVAC system has exceeded its useful service life and would be replaced by a modern and more energy efficient HVAC system.

The Eugene control house has an existing rooftop HVAC system which would be replaced by a ground-based system. Existing HVAC equipment not compatible with the new system would be removed and disposed of at an appropriate off-site location. A new 6-foot by 18-foot concrete pad and grounding loop would be excavated approximately 2 feet deep on the northeast side of the control house for the outdoor HVAC equipment. Bollards would be installed and spaced 4 feet around the concrete pad to protect the exterior ground-level HVAC equipment. Connections from the outdoor pumps to the control house would be routed through minimally invasive new wall penetrations and exterior line covers would be painted to match the existing control house color. A new roof vent would be installed to accommodate the new units, and an additional indoor fan unit would be added to serve non-critical spaces. All work, including equipment and material staging, would occur on gravel surfaces within the substation's footprint. Construction equipment would include trucks, an excavator, and common construction tools.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, repair, relocate, and replace the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto. (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838i(b)). The Administrator is further charged with maintaining electrical stability and reliability, selling transmission and interconnection services, and providing service to BPA's customers. (16 U.S.C § 838b(b-d)). The Administrator is also authorized to conduct electrical research, development, experimentation, tests, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities. (16 U.S.C § 838i(b)(3)).

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. [1]

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Concur:

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Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

[1] BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to the interim final rule to revise DOE NEPA regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 and NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated June 30, 2025), to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

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: Eugene Substation Control House HVAC Replacement

Project Site Description

Eugene Substation is located in Lane County, Oregon (Township 17 South, Range 4 West, DC 43). The surrounding area is heavily developed with commercial and residential properties which includes an active rail yard immediately north of the BPA fee-owned property. The project site would be within the fenced perimeter of the substation where the ground is entirely paved or graveled with no vegetation coverage. There are no water bodies or wetlands present within 250 feet of the control house.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Pursuant to its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800, BPA initiated consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians on February 26, 2025. BPA had previously determined that the Eugene Substation is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with Oregon SHPO concurrence. The Eugene Control House is a contributing resource and individually eligible under Criterion C. There are no other known historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The Oregon SHPO concurred with the APE and the finding of no adverse effect to historic properties on February 27, 2025 (OR SHPO Case No. 25-0315). No other responses were received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work, including staging and material storage, would occur within the fenced perimeter of Eugene Substation in locations of previous ground disturbances. Standard construction best management practices (BMPs) would be used for sediment control. Therefore, there would be minimal impact to soil and no impact to geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would occur within the fenced perimeter of Eugene Substation where no vegetation occurs. Therefore, the proposed actions would not impact plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would occur within the fenced perimeter of Eugene Substation where no habitat for wildlife occurs. It is presumed wildlife in the area would be accustomed to

increased human presence due to the surrounding commercial and residential development. Overall, the proposed actions would have minimal impact on wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no waterbodies present within the project site. A pond located approximately 250 feet southeast of the project site would not be within the project's footprint and standard construction BMPs would prevent inadvertent leaks (i.e., fuel) from reaching the pond. Therefore, there would be no impact to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

Notes:

- Maintain a spill kit onsite during construction.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands present within the project site and therefore they would not be impacted by the proposed project.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground disturbance would unlikely reach groundwater depth and no changes to wells or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed actions would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new HVAC units would be located on BPA property and would be consistent with existing equipment at the substation. No changes to the existing land use or specially-designated areas are proposed.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor changes to visual quality would occur due to removing the roof HVAC system; however, the new concrete pad and new equipment would not be readily visible to the public. All paint would match the existing color scheme of the control house, and the existing control house skylight would remain. Therefore, the proposed action would have minimal impact on visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no substantial changes to air quality due to the proposed actions.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction would occur during daylight hours. Noise from construction equipment and vehicles would temporarily and sporadically increase noise above current ambient

conditions; however, no long-term impacts from noise are expected and ambient HVAC noise would not exceed current noise levels of the substation.

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 impact human health and safety.

Notes:

- Certified asbestos abatement personnel would be on site to safely remove and dispose of asbestos. BPA and contract personnel would familiarize themselves with the established asbestos safety plan prior to starting work.

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: See #12 above.

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 would occur on BPA fee-owned property.

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

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