

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Hedges Substation Meter Reimbursement and Acquisition

**Project No.:** N0590

**Project Manager:** Jared Lacambra, TPCF-MEAD-GOB

**Location:** Benton County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to acquire a revenue meter that was previously installed by Benton County Public Utility District No. 1 (Benton PUD) within their Hedges Substation in Kennewick, Benton County, Washington. BPA would reimburse Benton PUD for the cost of the meter installation, and then ownership of the meter would transfer to BPA. The acquisition would not require any ground disturbance and would not result in any modifications to existing facilities or changes in operations.

**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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Walker Stinnette  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

# **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:** Hedges Substation Meter Reimbursement and Acquisition

## **Project Site Description**

The project site located within Benton PUD's Hedges Substation on BPA fee-owned property in Kennewick, Benton County, Washington (Township 8 N, Range 30 E, Section 15). The proposed action would not require any on-the-ground work at the project site.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA has determined, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), that the proposed undertaking would not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact water bodies or floodplains and would have no effect on fish species or habitats.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact land use or specially-designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact visual quality.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact air quality.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact noise.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes financial reimbursement for the previously completed meter installation and acquisition of the meter. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact human health or safety.

### **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: The project site is located within Benton PUD's Hedges Substation on BPA fee-owned property. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed:

Walker Stinnette  
Environmental Protection Specialist