

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Revenue Meter at Deschutes Public Library

Project No.: G1071

Project Manager: Kody Fullerton – TPCF-TRI CITIES RMHQ

Location: Deschutes County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic Equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install a revenue meter and associated equipment at the newly constructed Deschutes Public Library solar generation facility. The equipment installation would support interconnection of the newly constructed solar generation facility. All BPA work would be in already existing cabinets built for the revenue meter and associated equipment. No ground disturbance is proposed.

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

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.

Jessica A. Heppler
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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: Revenue Meter at Deschutes Public Library

Project Site Description

The proposed project is located at the Deschutes Public Library located in Deschutes County, Oregon (T18S R12E Section 11). All project actions would occur within cabinets built to house the BPA revenue meter, and associated equipment. There is no proposed ground disturbance for project activities. The area around the Deschutes Public Library is characterized by medium density and sparse residences, open county land, and educational facilities. No water bodies or wetlands are present in or near the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Based on the information provided, BPA has determined, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), that this undertaking is a type of activity that does 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: There would be no ground disturbance from project actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species, or plant species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) occurring at the project site. There would be no ground disturbance, and therefore, no effects to protected plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of special-status wildlife species or suitable habitat present in the project area. Minor and temporary disturbance of common wildlife species could occur from elevated noise during installation. Because the work would be occurring in an urbanized area, any wildlife present are likely used to human presence and noise.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The project site is not located in, or near any surface waters or fish bearing streams and is not located within a floodplain. Project activities are not anticipated to affect surface waters, fish or fish-bearing streams.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Project is not within or near a wetland.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Project activities are unlikely to reach depths affecting groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There would be no change in land use or specially designated areas as a result of this project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: All work is to be completed inside provided cabinets. No visual or aesthetic resources would be impacted.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: No special or heavy equipment would be utilized to complete project actions, and the work of the project would create no other concerns pertaining to air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The proposed project activities are not expected to generate a significant amount of noise.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The projects would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. No impact to human health and safety is expected as a result of project activities.

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 proposed action would occur on land owned by the Deschutes Public Library District. No additional 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:

Jessica A. Heppler
Environmental Protection Specialist