

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Engine Generator Replacements at Del Rio, Grand Coulee, and Teanaway Radio Stations

Project No.: P05284

Project Manager: Jennifer Bachman, TEPF-CSB-2

Location: Douglas, Grant, and Kittitas counties, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance; B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the propane engine generators (EGs) that provides emergency power supply at three radio stations in the Wenatchee District: Del Rio Radio Station, Grand Coulee Radio Station, and Teanaway Radio Station. The emergency power supply systems, which provide backup electrical power to the radio stations when primary service has failed, are increasingly unreliable due to age and lack of replacement parts. Therefore, the proposed project is required to maintain the overall reliability of the bulk electric system.

Inside each of the radio station buildings, BPA would replace the existing EG, automatic transfer switch, fuel systems, and associated electrical and mechanical components, including panels, equipment cabinets, alarms, disconnects, breakers, EG batteries and battery chargers, conduit, and wiring. The existing EGs would be drained of fuel/oil and packaged for transportation to a BPA facility and processed according to all local, state, and federal regulations. To accommodate the new EGs and to comply with code requirements, fuel plumbing, engine air intake and exhaust ducting, propane ventilation fans, and/or high temperature exhaust fans could be installed, replaced, and/or reconfigured, as necessary in the respective radio station buildings. Some modifications to existing roof/wall penetrations or new penetrations could be required. New 2.5-foot by 4-foot steel storage boxes for spare parts and tools would also be installed in the building.

Due to the age of the radio station buildings, hazardous building materials could be present; targeted testing and abatement may be necessary prior to construction. All decommissioned materials and equipment and construction waste would be safely disposed of according to all local, state, and federal regulations.

The proposed EG replacement work would also include replacing the existing propane tanks and supply lines located outside the buildings within a fenced yard. At Del Rio and Teanaway, the existing propane tank would be replaced with one larger tank. At Grand Coulee, one existing propane tank would be replaced with two larger tanks. The new tanks would be mounted on concrete pads within the fenced yard. Trenching for the propane supply lines would include digging a trench approximately 2 to 3 feet wide and 2 feet deep between the propane tank and the radio station building. To access the yard for propane

tank removal and installation, part of the fence would be removed to allow access and then replaced in the same location with a double gate. After the new propane tanks have been installed, bollards would be installed into the ground around the tanks for protection.

Minor road improvements would occur along approximately 3,500 feet of the existing access road to the Teanaway radio station. Access road improvements would include light grading to smooth existing ruts, potholes, and washboards and laying down gravel to level the road surface. The proposed improvements would not extend outside of the existing road prism and would not reach depths that could impact native soils beneath the road surface.

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.

Jeremy Doschka
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: Engine Generator Replacements at Del Rio, Grand Coulee, and Teanaway Radio Stations

Project Site Description

The Del Rio Radio Station is approximately ten miles northwest of Grand Coulee, Washington. It is in Section 32, Township 29 North, Range 29 East. The 0.5-acre parcel is graveled and surrounded by cultivated agricultural land within the shrub steppe ecosystem. Highway 174 borders the northern side of the parcel. Scattered ponds are in the project vicinity, with the nearest being approximately 275 feet north of the site. The radio station is approximately 2,580 feet in elevation.

The Grand Coulee Radio Station is located north of Grand Coulee, Grant County, Washington (Township 28 N, Range 30 East, Section 2) on federal lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. The radio station is situated on a small rocky knoll approximately 0.4 mile west of the Columbia River and Grand Coulee dam within the shrub steppe ecosystem. The radio station is south of the Grand Coulee 230 kV switchyard and within transmission line corridors. Highway 174 is just west of the radio station. The elevation at the site is about 1,780 feet in elevation.

The Teanaway Radio Station is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington (Township 19 N, Range 16 East, Section 17) and about 2 miles south of Interstate 90. The dirt road used to access the radio station crosses Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land; however, no ground disturbing activities would occur on DNR lands. The surrounding area to the south, east, and west is largely undeveloped forest land, with rural residential housing located to the north. An unnamed drainage is located 375 feet south of the project location. The elevation at the site is about 3,430 feet in elevation.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: At Del Rio Radio Station, no previous cultural resource surveys had been conducted within one mile of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). However, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) predictive model notes that the APE is within a moderately low risk probability area for archaeological resources and the entire APE is within the graveled radio station parking lot and fenced yard. No built environmental resources considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were identified within the APE. Therefore, BPA determined on November 20, 2025, that the project would result in no adverse effect to historic properties (BPA CR Project No.: WA 2025 120d, DAHP Log No.: 2025-11-07285-BPA). The consulting parties included:

- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)

Concurrence with BPA's determination was received from DAHP on November 20th, 2025. No other comments were received.

At Grand Coulee Radio Station no previously-recorded archaeological resources were identified within the APE. One historic built environment resource considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP was identified within the APE: the Grand Coulee Radio Station.

However, the proposed project would not alter the integrity or eligibility of Grand Coulee Radio Station. Therefore, BPA determined on December 17, 2025, that the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties (BPA CR Project No.: WA 2022 120e, DAHP Log No.: 2025-11-07286-BPA). The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) agreed that BPA would be the lead federal agency for Section 106 responsibilities and sent a designation letter on December 15th, 2025. The consulting parties included:

- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- DAHP

Concurrence with BPA's determination was received from DAHP on January 5th, 2025. No other comments were received.

At Teanaway Radio Station, one previously-recorded archaeological resource was identified within the APE, a single historic soda bottle (45KT04447), and determined not eligible. One historic built environment resource considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP was identified within the APE: Teanaway Radio Station. However, the proposed project would not alter the integrity or eligibility of Teanaway Radio Station. Therefore, BPA determined on March 6, 2024, that the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties (BPA CR Project No.: WA 2022 120d, DAHP Log No.: 2026-01-00023-BPA). The consulting parties included:

- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- DNR
- DAHP

Concurrence with BPA's determination was received from DAHP on January 5th, 2025. No other comments were received.

Notes:

- Implement the Post Review Discovery Procedure in the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during implementation. Discontinue all ground-disturbing activity in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground disturbing activities would include light grading within the existing access roadway fill prism along approximately 3,500 feet of road (about 1 acre) at Teanaway. Trenching for propane supply lines would occur within the graveled yards of the radio stations. Spoils would be temporarily side cast and used to backfill the trenches. Best management practices (BMPs) for temporary erosion and sediment control would be implemented.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground disturbing activities would occur mainly within existing roadways or inside graveled yards devoid of vegetation. There are no documented occurrences of any plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on ESA-listed plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary wildlife disturbance could occur from construction noise during the day from road improvements and work at the radio stations. Wildlife would access adjacent habitat during disturbance and would return upon completion. Most of the EG replacement work would occur inside the existing radio station buildings at each of the

project sites with some trenching work outside within the fenced yard of the radio station buildings. There would be no effect to ESA-listed or sensitive wildlife species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, fish, or fish habitat at any of the project sites.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands at or adjacent to any of the project sites.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground excavation at the project sites would not reach depths to ground water, and standard construction BMPs would reduce the potential for inadvertent spills of hazardous materials that could contaminate groundwater or aquifers. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The land use would not change at any of the project sites. There are no specially-designated areas near any of the project sites.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, the presence of equipment and general construction activities would cause temporary visual impacts. Permanent changes at each project site would include replacing the propane tanks and installing bollards, which would be consistent with the existing visual quality of the area. The project site is not located in a visually sensitive area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would produce minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. The new propane engine generators would be maintained and operated in the same manner as the existing engine generators. There would be no permanent change in air quality following completion of the proposed action.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would result in minor and temporary noise from the use of vehicles and equipment during construction. Noise impacts would be temporary and would only occur during daylight hours. There would be no permanent change in ambient noise following completion of the proposed action.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All standard safety protocols would be followed throughout implementation of the proposed action to minimize risk to human health and safety. Therefore, the proposed action would not be expected to impact human health and 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: All decommissioned materials and equipment and construction waste, including potentially hazardous waste and materials, would be safely disposed of according to all local, state, and federal regulations.

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 in radio stations where BPA has acquired easements from the underlying landowners and managers. For the access road improvements, BPA has coordinated with the underlying landowner.

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

Signed:

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist