

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Grand Coulee TLM Material Yard

PP&A No.: 7039

Project Manager: Craig Wohlsein – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Location: Douglas, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance, B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration proposes to perform maintenance on 400 feet of existing access road and transition approximately 5.6 acres of currently idle land adjacent to the existing Grand Coulee 500kV substation to a transmission line maintenance material yard. Road maintenance would include blading, shaping, grading, and placing surface rock on existing road prisms. The material yard area would require improvement to include light blading and grading and application of up to 4 inches of gravel. General equipment used for this type of work could include graders, rollers, bulldozers, excavators, and dump trucks.

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.

/s/ Justin Carr
Justin Carr
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey C. Grange Date: February 2, 2026
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: Grand Coulee TLM Material Yard

Project Site Description

The proposed project is located in Douglas County, Washington. The proposed actions would occur within BPA fee owned property adjacent to the Grand Coulee 500kV substation. The project would occur on historically disturbed soils that currently have little to no vegetation.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist initiated Section 106 consultation on December 17, 2025, with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Tribal Historic Preservation Office and received email concurrence the project would not affect any historic properties the same date. A combined initiation of consultation and determination of effects memo was sent to the confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) with a determination of no historic properties affected on December 22, 2025. SHPO concurred with BPA's delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and determination of effect. No other comments were received prior to the expiration of the 30-day response period on January 22, 2026.

In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA will require that work be halted 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: The project area is located on level topography and would require minimal grading or soil displacement to prepare the site for new gravel application. This area has been historically disturbed and the proposed project activities have minimal disturbance. A water truck can be mobilized if necessary for dust control.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed area is generally devoid of existing vegetation. The proposed activities would not impact any special status or ESA listed plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project activities would have minimal and temporary disturbance to wildlife associated with elevated noise levels and human presence. The proposed project activities are located on property adjacent to an active existing substation. The proposed activities would be limited to approximately 14 days.

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 near the proposed project location.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands in or adjacent to the proposed project site.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The proposed project activities do not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact existing land uses. The proposed project activities would not significantly affect the current function of the land or habitat.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have minimal impact to visual quality and the results would remain consistent with the existing surroundings of the adjacent substation and transmission structures.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have no significant impact on air quality. There would be temporary and minimal emissions from construction vehicles and dust associated with construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the adjacent substation and transmission conductors would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities would not impact human health and safety. The public has no access to this area.

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 project activities are located on BPA fee owned lands.

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

Signed: /s/ Justin Carr

Justin Carr

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: February 2, 2026