

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: 125VDC Station Service Battery Purchase at Connell Substation

Project No.: P06992

Project Manager: Jay Largo, TPC-TPP-4

Location: Franklin 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 purchase the 125VDC battery bank and chargers in Franklin County Public Utility District's Connell Substation, in Franklin County, Washington. In 2006, BPA sold the Connell Substation to Franklin County PUD but retained equipment associated with the Connell Tap to Benton-Scooteney No. 1 115kV transmission line that terminates inside the Connell Substation. The purchasing of the battery banks and chargers, which powers the BPA equipment, would provide BPA the responsibility of operation and maintenance of the batteries and chargers. The proposed acquisition would not require any ground disturbance at the project site. BPA would operate the battery bank and chargers in a manner similar to current operation. BPA is authorized to acquire any interest in real property pursuant to sections 2(c), 2(d), and 2(f) of the Bonneville Project Act, 16 U.S.C. § 832a(c), (d), and (f), and section 7 of the Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act, 16 U.S.C. § 838e.

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 the current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures*, 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.

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Project Site Description

The substation equipment is located within the control house at Connell Substation, which is graveled and fenced, near Connell, Washington (Township 13 N, Range 31 E, Section 1).

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 this project 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: No ground-disturbing work is associated with the purchase of the battery bank and chargers. Therefore, the proposed purchase would have no impact on geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is associated with the purchase of the battery bank and chargers. Therefore, the proposed purchase would have no effect on protected plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing or noise-generating work is associated with the purchase of the battery bank and chargers. Therefore, the proposed purchase would have no effect on protected wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is associated with the purchase of the battery bank and chargers. Therefore, the proposed purchase would have no impact on water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on protected fish species or habitats.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is associated with the purchase of the battery bank and chargers. Therefore, the proposed purchase would have no impact on wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is associated with the purchase of the battery bank and chargers, and no new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed purchase would have no impact on groundwater and aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Use and operation of the battery bank, chargers, and associated BPA substation equipment would remain essentially the same following the change in ownership. Therefore, the proposed purchase would not require a change in land use and would have no impact on any specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Use and operation of the battery bank and chargers would remain the same following the change in ownership. Therefore, the proposed asset purchase would not change visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Use and operation of the battery bank and chargers would remain the same following the change in ownership. Therefore, the proposed purchase would not change air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Use and operation of the battery bank and chargers would remain essentially the same following the change in ownership. Therefore, the proposed purchase would not change ambient noise.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed purchase of the battery bank and chargers would not adversely affect 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: 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 Connell Substation is located on land owned by the FCPUD. The purchase of the battery bank and chargers has been coordinated with FCPUD. No landowner notification, involvement, or other 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:

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist