

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Community Solar Phase II Revenue Meter

Project No.: G1093

Project Manager: Kody Fullerton – TPCF-TRI CITIES RMHQ

Location: Deschutes County, OR

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to purchase and deliver a revenue meter and associated equipment to Central Electric Cooperative (CEC). The revenue meter, owned by BPA, would be installed by CEC in their new Community Solar Phase II project. The meter installation would support interconnection of the yet-to-be built solar generation facility. CEC would install a cabinet in which the revenue meter and associated equipment would be installed. No ground disturbance is proposed.

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)). BPA processes requests for interconnection and provides interconnection services under the terms of an open access transmission tariff adopted by the Administrator in accordance with section 212(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act. (16 U.S.C § 824k(i)(2)(A)).

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.

Laura Roberts
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: Community Solar Phase II Revenue Meter

Project Site Description

Meter installation would occur on CEC property within the yet-to-be built Community Solar Phase II array at T18S, R12E, Section 14. The general area surrounding the installation site includes a previously built solar array, utility office and maintenance buildings, industrial and residential land uses, and areas of shrub-scrub habitat. No water bodies or wetlands are present in or near the meter installation 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 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: Meter installation would not require ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status plant species or habitats occur within the meter installation site. There are no anticipated impacts to plants as the proposed work would occur within a CEC built cabinet.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status plant species or habitats occur within the meter installation site. There are no anticipated impacts to animals as the proposed work would occur within a CEC built cabinet.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish occur within the meter installation site; therefore, the meter installation would have no impacts to these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Wetlands do not occur within the project area; therefore, the meter installation would have no impact to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to groundwater or aquifers are anticipated as the proposed meter installation has no ground disturbance.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Meter installation would be completed inside a CEC cabinet. Land use or specially-designated areas would not be impacted.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Meter installation would be completed inside a CEC cabinet. No visual or aesthetic resources would be impacted.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Meter installation would not require the use of heavy equipment. No change to future air quality would result from meter installation.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Meter installation or future operations would not generate a significant amount of noise.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Meter installation would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. No impacts 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 or explanation if applicable.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA will continue coordination with CEC.

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

Signed:

Laura Roberts
Environmental Protection Specialist