

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: PGE Carty Solar Interconnection

Project No.: G0706/G0713

Project Manager: Cherilyn Randall, TPC-TPP-4

Location: Morrow and Gilliam counties, 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 allow interconnection of a 200 MW solar project in Morrow and Gilliam counties, Oregon into Portland General Electric's (PGE) Grassland 500 kV Substation that is connected radially from BPA's Slatt Substation. BPA determined that the 200 MW could be interconnected at Grassland Substation. The existing metering at BPA's Slatt Substation would be used as the interchange meter of record. BPA would coordinate new circuits through the existing BPA/PGE connection at BPA's Slatt Substation. BPA would provide additions on its existing communications system to provide the required connectivity for the added circuits for the projects. BPA would update the existing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and remedial action scheme (RAS) equipment at Dittmer and Munro Control Centers. The generation facility would be connected to BPA's Dial Automatic Telephone System (DATS) at the DATS switch at McNary and Ashe Substations. No ground disturbance would occur as part of BPA's action.

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.

Christopher Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Sarah T. Biegel
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

Existing fenced and graveled facilities, including electric substations and control houses, maintenance headquarters, and radio facility support structures. These facilities are located within BPA's service territory.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance beyond previously-compacted and graveled areas would occur, so there would be no impacts to soils and geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur and no plants would be disturbed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in existing, graveled facilities. No wildlife habitat present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in existing, graveled facilities; no water or fish resources present.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in existing, graveled facilities; no wetlands present.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in the visual character of the facilities would occur.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with increased vehicle traffic and equipment use would occur during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with installation activities would occur during construction.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any hazardous materials such as batteries generated would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste disposal facility.

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: BPA Transmission will coordinate with PGE for the equipment installation.

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

Signed:

Christopher Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist