

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Grand Coulee Fuel System Decommissioning Project

Project No.: P05734

Project Manager: Erin Couch, NWMM-1

Location: Grant County and Douglas counties, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements; B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to decommission and remove a fuel system and underground storage tanks (UST) located at the recently vacated BPA Grand Coulee Maintenance Headquarters (Grand Coulee MHQ) and install a new fueling system at the Grand Coulee Substation. The proposed project is necessary to remove the no longer needed fueling system, meet BPA's required hazardous waste safety standards, and provide a new fueling system for BPA maintenance crews stationed at Grand Coulee Substation.

BPA is proposing to remove a fueling system which consists of two above ground fuel dispensing pumps and two USTs. BPA would first disconnect the fuel lines from the fuel dispensing pumps, empty the USTs of any fuel, and excavate the USTs. Fuel spills would be contained and cleaned up with onsite spill kits. Soil samples would be collected and analyzed to determine if a hazardous material release to the environment has occurred. Excavated tanks, used spill containment materials, and contaminated soil, if encountered, would be transported to an appropriately licensed and regulated facility for disposal. Following any needed remediation, BPA would then backfill and compact the resultant holes creating a flat, graveled, drivable surface.

Additionally, a new self-contained fueling system with incorporated fuel dispensing pumps would be installed at the Grand Coulee Substation 500-kV switchyard. The new double-walled above ground fueling system would hold approximately 7,750 gallons of diesel fuel and be sited on a previously paved or rocked parking area.

General equipment used for the proposed project work includes excavators, pickup trucks, dump trucks, bulldozers, and tractor-trailers.

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 BPA 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 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**
Laura Roberts
Environmental Protection Specialist

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Concur:

**KATEY
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Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

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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 Fuel System Decommissioning Project

Project Site Description

The proposed project is in central Washington along the Columbia Plateau at approximately 1,500 to 2,000 feet above sea level. The fuel system decommissioning occurs at the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Maintenance Facility, previously leased and utilized by BPA as the Grand Coulee MHQ. The location includes a Quonset Hut, rocked parking lot, and rocked material storage yard. The general area surrounding the maintenance facility includes other industrial use sites, the Columbia River, the Grand Coulee Dam, and the small town of Grand Coulee. Additionally, the above ground fueling system would be installed within the rocked parking area of the Grand Coulee Substation 500-kV switchyard. The general area surrounding the switchyard consists of an existing electrical transmission right-of-way that contains multiple transmission lines and shrub-steppe habitat. Project location and land ownership are listed below.

Township	Range	Section	Ownership
28N	30E	1	BOR
29N	30E	34	BOR

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on May 11, 2026 (WA 2026 112 - IOC DOE – 20260511). Within that letter, BPA determined that the implementation of the proposed project would result in no historic properties affected. BPA received Section 106 concurrence from SHPO on May 11, 2026. No other comments were received during the 30-day response period.

Note:

- In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, work would be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Anticipated impacts to geology or soils would be minimal resulting from removal of the USTs. Following UST removal, the site would be backfilled, graded, and rocked.

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 project area. No impacts to vegetation are anticipated to result from the project as the work areas have been previously graded and graveled.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status wildlife species or habitats occur in the project area. The project would have temporary noise and disturbance impacts to local wildlife species related to equipment noise and human presence. Impacts would be temporary and suitable habitat occurs adjacent to the project area accessible to wildlife during project implementation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies occur within the project area; therefore, the project would have no impact to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Wetlands do not occur within the project area; therefore, the project 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 project ground disturbance would not be deep enough to penetrate groundwater. New above ground tanks would be double walled and provide a self-containment area between the two walls that would isolate potential releases before entering the environment.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in land use or specially-designated areas as a result of the project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would result in impacts to visual quality at the BOR Maintenance Facility from the removal of the above ground fuel dispensing pumps and at the Grand Coulee Substation 500-kV switchyard from installation of the above ground fueling system. These impacts would be minimal and consistent with the surrounding industrial land use.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of vehicle emissions would occur during project implementation. However, there would be no substantial changes to air quality during or after the implementation of the proposed project.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary noise would occur during daylight hours during project implementation. No ongoing noise increase is expected as a result of this project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to human health and safety are anticipated to result from this project. Environmental remediation activities for tank disposal, contaminated soil disposal, or spilled fuel at the BOR Maintenance Facility would comply with applicable health and safety regulations. Fuel spills would be contained and cleaned up with onsite spill kits. Soil samples would be collected and analyzed to determine if a hazardous material release to the environment has occurred. Excavated tanks, used spill containment materials, and contaminated soil, if encountered, would be transported to an appropriately licensed and regulated facility for disposal.

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: See #12 above

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 Realty maintains ongoing coordination with BOR.

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

Signed: **LAURA**
ROBERTS
Laura Roberts, ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

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