

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Water Pump Replacement at the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery (NPTH)

**Project No.:** 1983-350-00

**Project Manager:** Eric McOomie, EWU-4

**Location:** Nez Perce County, Idaho

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide funding to the Nez Perce Tribe for the in-kind replacement of up to four surface water pumps at the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery (NPTH) near Lewiston, ID.

The surface water pumps that would be replaced are situated within that hatchery site atop a concrete pad inside a shed on a graveled surface approximately 25 feet from the Clearwater River. The replacement would include an upgrade to variable frequency driven pumps that would reduce wear on the motor components; reduce pressure demand on the intake screens and piping; and reduce energy costs. This upgrade would not extend the original intended life of the hatchery nor increase its design capacity to rear more fish than has been previously authorized. No ground disturbance is proposed.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: July 30, 2018

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist 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:** Water Pump Replacement at the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery (NPTH)

## Project Site Description

The NPTH is a 30-acre fish hatchery facility that is adjacent to the Clearwater River in Nez Perce County, Idaho, which is approximately 20 miles upstream of Lewiston, Idaho. The facility was constructed in 2000. The pumps that would be replaced are situated within that hatchery site atop a concrete pad inside a shed on a graveled surface approximately 25 feet from the river.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No previously undisturbed land or structures would be affected in the replacement of the pumps.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No soil would be disturbed for the replacement of the pumps. No excavation or site preparation would be required.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The work site is graveled; no vegetation would be disturbed.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The work site is graveled; no wildlife habitat would be disturbed.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The work site is within 25 feet of the Clearwater River, but all activities would occur within a previously developed area. No riparian vegetation would be removed and the river bank would not be altered. No in-river work would occur.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is a graveled and developed area; no wetlands are present.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance or groundwater extraction would occur from the activities.		

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation: Existing land uses would remain the same. The site is not within a specially designated area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The pumps are currently, and would continue to be, housed within existing structures, which would not be altered. The visual quality of the site would remain the similar to existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Emissions are anticipated from delivery and installation vehicles. The emissions would be of short duration and consistent in amount and duration with routine vehicle use currently at the hatchery and surrounding agricultural operations.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Noise is anticipated from delivery and installation vehicles. The noise would be of short duration and not inconsistent in volume or duration with routine activity at the hatchery and surrounding agricultural operations.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Transportation of the pumps would add to vehicle use of local roads, but that increase would last for only a few days and would not add a large quantity of vehicles. Installation actions at the hatchery would have their attendant risk to operational personnel, but no more than other routine heavy maintenance activities at the hatchery. The risk environment would not change.

### **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, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The hatchery operator, the Nez Perce Tribe, would coordinate and carry out the activities.

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

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange  
Katey Grange  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: July 30, 2018