

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Malin Maintenance Headquarters Xeriscaping

Project Manager: Carol Krohn—TPC-TPP-4

Location: Klamath County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B5.1 Actions to Conserve Energy or Water

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace existing landscaping with xeriscaping at its Malin Maintenance Headquarters in Klamath County, Oregon to help reduce the need for supplemental water from irrigation. Approximately 0.35 acres of lawn and six small trees would be removed and replaced with drought tolerant plants that would require significantly less irrigation than the existing landscaping.

The new plantings would include, but are not limited to the following species: ponderosa pine, Canada red choke cherry, pinemat manzanita, gray rabbitbrush, wax current, snowberry, threadleaf fleabane, sulphur buckwheat, silver lupine, royal penstemon, and Idaho fescue. A weed barrier would be installed prior to planting. Compost, soil amendments, and top soil would be applied to the new plantings. Shrubs and trees would be mulched with wood chips. Additional river rock and accent boulders would be imported to the site. Some bare ground would remain, to provide habitat to ground-nesting bees and a small water rock basin would provide a water source for pollinators.

Some existing irrigation would be removed for this project and the rest would remain until the new plantings are established.

Additionally, an employee patio would be upgraded on the northwestern side of the building. The upgrades would consist of installing permeable pavers, a 20 foot by 15 foot pergola and a deciduous tree.

The project would require use of small mechanical equipment, such as a mini excavator, small backhoe and a walk behind trench machine. Supplies and equipment would be brought to the project location via a flatbed truck and debris would be hauled off-site by a dumptruck.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ David K. Kennedy for

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 18, 2017

Attachment: 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: Malin Maintenance Headquarters Xeriscaping Design & Installation

Project Site Description

The project location is at the Malin Maintenance Headquarters facility in southern Oregon. The facility is located in Section 16, Township 41 South, Range 12 East. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat terrain. The neighboring parcels are comprised largely of agricultural fields, a park, and rural residential developments.

A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies in the project area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project was reviewed by BPA’s cultural staff and it was determined that the site has had extensive previous disturbance; therefore, BPA has determined the undertaking does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project involves minimal ground disturbance.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species are present in the project area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species are present in the project area. The project would improve habitat for pollinator species by planting a variety of native forbs and shrubs, which would offer a variety of blooms throughout the growing season. Additional pollinator protection would include leaving bare ground for nest building, and the installation of a shallow water feature at the site.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not have water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The soils at the site are listed as hydric; however, a May 4, 2016 site visit determined that other wetland indicators were not present at the site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The project would improve visual quality by increasing the professional and well-maintained appearance of the Malin Maintenance Headquarters.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during landscape installation; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: There may be minimal temporary construction noise, which would be comparable to ambient noise at the project location.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact.

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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project is occurring at a BPA facility; the nearest residence is approximately 100 feet south, across Highway 50. The project is unlikely to affect nearby landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger, ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: May 18, 2017