

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Spare Transformer Installation at Slatt Substation

Project No. (if applicable): 4069

Project Manager: Sarah Sprague, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Gilliam County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric Power Substations and Interconnection Facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to add equipment and expand its Slatt Substation on BPA property to accommodate load growth and prevent transformer overloading due to inadvertent flow. The new electrical equipment to be installed includes a spare 230/500 kV transformer.

The expansion would add about 3.7 acres (500 feet by 200 feet) to the existing Slatt Substation. The expansion area would be on already disturbed land within BPA's existing property boundary on the southeast side of the substation. In addition, about one acre of BPA property may be temporarily disturbed during construction activities.

The new substation equipment would be installed on concrete pads for stability, and the remainder of the expansion area would be covered in crushed rock. For security and public safety, the existing 7-foot high chain link substation perimeter fence and lighting would be extended to encompass the expansion area. To meet current stormwater management requirements, the stormwater management system perimeter ditch would be extended around the perimeter of the new fence line. All work would be in a previously disturbed area.

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/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti,
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 12, 2019

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: Spare Transformer Installations at Central Ferry Substation and Slatt Substation

Project Site Description

The Slatt Substation is about three miles southeast of the Town of Arlington. The substation expansion area has been previously disturbed and reseeded during the original substation construction. Nearby land uses include farmland and rangeland that consists of open, undeveloped terrain surrounded by grassland and shrub-steppe.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is located within a documented Traditional Cultural Property, but the project would have no adverse effect on it. The Warm Springs and Umatilla tribes have requested an archaeological monitor be present for all ground-disturbing activities. The Warm Springs have also requested that an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) be in place, and that construction crews are briefed on the contents and importance of the IDP.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> At Slatt Substation, about 4 acres of temporary soil disturbance and 3.7 acres of permanent disturbance within the substation expansion area are expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion and sediment controls for soil stabilization would be implemented. ✓ Vehicles would be limited to access roads and immediate work areas. 		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present. Expansion areas are predominately disturbed fill with low quality vegetation. Any disturbed areas would be seeded with a geographic- and climate-appropriate seed mix.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vehicles should be washed and free of soil and other debris prior to entering the site. 		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitats are present. All work would be performed in the substation yard, transmission, and road rights-of-way.</p>		

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

Explanation: There are no federal/state special status species, water bodies, or flood plains found within the project area.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. An oil containment system would be located around the new transformers to prevent oil from entering the drainage system during a catastrophic event. Spill prevention measures would be present on-site during construction.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: The project area is located primarily in existing transmission line right-of-way. No special restrictions apply and no additional land use evaluation has occurred.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: Addition of equipment and expansion of substation yard would be visually consistent with the existing substation.

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust abatement BMPs would be used to control construction impacts.

11. Noise

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety is anticipated.

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: All work would take place on BPA fee-owned land.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist, EPR-4

Date: April 12, 2019