

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Acquisition of Disconnect Switches at Paul Substation

Project Manager: Jay Largo, TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Lewis County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to acquire ownership of six existing 500-kV disconnect switches located within BPA's fee-owned Paul Substation near Centralia, Lewis County, Washington (Township 15 N, Range 2 W, Section 25). The disconnect switches are currently owned by Transalta Centralia Generation LLC (Transalta) and constitute the only remaining Transalta-owned transmission equipment at Paul Substation. BPA would gain complete operational control of all transmission equipment at Paul Substation, which would improve power system reliability and safety. Disconnect switches do not contain hazardous materials (i.e., oil). The acquisition would not require any ground disturbance and would not result in any modifications to existing facilities.

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, Jul. 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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Salient CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol P. Leiter

Carol P. Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange January 4, 2021

Katey C. Grange Date

NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Acquisition of Disconnect Switches at Paul Substation

Project Site Description

The disconnect switches are located within BPA's Paul Substation, which is graveled and fenced, near Centralia, Lewis County, Washington (Township 15 N, Range 2 W, Section 25). The proposed project would not require any on-the-ground work at the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects on historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no impact on geology and soils; equipment acquisition only.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no effect on protected plant species or habitats; equipment acquisition only.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no effect on protected wildlife species or habitats; equipment acquisition only.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no impact on water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on protected fish species or habitats; equipment acquisition only.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no impact on wetlands; equipment acquisition only.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no impact on groundwater or aquifers; equipment acquisition only.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would require no change in land use and would have no impact on any specially-designated areas; equipment acquisition only.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not change visual quality; equipment acquisition only.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not change air quality; equipment acquisition only.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not change ambient noise; equipment acquisition only.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have no impact on human health and safety; equipment acquisition only.

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: Paul Substation is BPA fee-owned property. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette January 4, 2021
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient CRGT