

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Ohop Substation Telephone Line Relocate

**Project Manager:** Debbie Ruckwardt - TEP-CSB-1

**Location:** Pierce County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to move existing metering and telemetry equipment from its current location in a meter house to a new control house at Ohop Mutual Light Company's Ohop Substation. Ohop Mutual Light Company is installing a new control house inside of their substation yard, and will allow space for BPA's equipment. BPA proposes to excavate a trench approximately 30-feet long, adjacent to the fence line, in an area that has previously been disturbed.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Adecco Engineering & Technical

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 6, 2014

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: Ohop Substation Telephone Line Relocate

---

#### Project Site Description

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to move existing metering and telemetry equipment from its current location in a meter house to a new control house at Ohop Mutual Light Company's Ohop Substation. Ohop Mutual Light Company is installing a new control house inside of their substation yard, and will allow space for BPA's equipment. BPA proposes to excavate a trench approximately 30-feet long, adjacent to the fence line, in an area that has previously been disturbed.

#### 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> The initiation of consultation was sent to SHPO, Nisqually Indian Tribe and Puyallup Tribe of Indians on October 7, 2014. SHPO concurred with the Determination of No Effect on October 8, 2014. No response was received from either of the tribes; therefore, concurrence was assumed.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance will occur in an area that has previously been disturbed.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Project area as been previously disturbed and consists of gravel fill and a small area of vegetation.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Project area is not suitable wildlife habitat.		
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>		

No water bodies or floodplains are present in the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No new wells or use of ground water are proposed.

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



Explanation:

Temporary disturbance during construction.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

The equipment would be buried and therefore would not be visibly different than the existing equipment.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Temporary dust and vehicle emissions during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Temporary noise during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

No impact to human health and safety from the proposed project.

### **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:  
Not applicable.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Date: November 6, 2014