

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Sacheen Substation Protective Relay Replacement

**PP&A No.:** 3083

**Project Manager:** Amy Gardner

**Location:** Sacheen Substation

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace the existing protective relaying for Bank No. 1 at BPA's Sacheen Substation. The project is needed to replace or upgrade outdated equipment to ensure system reliability and operational needs. All proposed work is located on BPA property inside the existing control house at Sacheen Substation. The project would not involve any major modifications to the control house nor result in any ground disturbance.

**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/ Philip Smith

Philip W. Smith  
Manager-Technical & Regional Services, KEPR-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 15, 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:** Sacheen Substation Protective Relay Replacement

### Project Site Description

Sacheen Substation is located in Pend Oreille County, Washington approximately 30-miles north of the city of Spokane. The project is located entirely on property owned by BPA and is confined within the existing substation control house. The area immediate surrounding the substation is forested and managed for timber.

### 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> All work to be performed inside the existing substation and requires no building modifications or ground disturbance.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work to be performed within existing control house, no outside work or excavation required		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present-existing substation.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present-existing substation. Work to be confined to inside existing control house.		
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> None present		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The substation is located within the EPA designated boundary of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be less than 10-ft; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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

Explanation: No change in land use.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Project replaces substation equipment inside existing control house.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No impact

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Work inside existing facility.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Control house batteries would be removed using BMPs to prevent accidental spills; equipment will be managed and disposed of in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

### 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: Control house batteries would be removed using BMPs to prevent accidental spills; equipment will be managed and disposed of in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

- 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: N/A, owned by BPA.

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

Signed: /s/ Philip Smith

Date: December 15, 2014