

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Bell Substation Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Modification

**Project Manager:** Dino Zeppetalla, TEPO-CSB-2

**Location:** Spokane County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.4 Air conditioning systems for existing equipment

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to modify the HVAC system at its existing Bell Substation in Spokane County, Washington. The modifications are necessary because the existing system is inadequate and inefficient. All work would take place within Bell Substation. Modifications include moving the existing HVAC units from its current location adjacent to the control house to its roof, removal and replacement of ductwork, replacement of some portion of the ceiling and removal of two condensing units. A minimal amount of ground disturbance would occur during removal of the existing HVAC units, and the area would be covered with substation ground rock. All work would take place within BPA's Bell Substation.

**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/ Stacy L. Mason

Katherine S. Pierce or Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 30, 2015

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: Bell Substation HVAC System Modifications**

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### Project Site Description

All work will occur within the existing yard at the Bell Substation. The yard is graveled with no potential habitat or vegetation present.

### 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> Substation constructed in 1951. WA Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation concurrence on no adverse effect determination 5/5/15. Spokane Tribe of Indians concurrence on no adverse effect determination 6/24/15.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Extremely minimal soil disturbance would occur during removal of the existing HVAC units within graveled yard.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Exterior work would occur where no plants are present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing substation yard; no habitat or species present.		

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



Explanation: No water bodies present. Project would not be within a floodplain.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Minimal soil disturbance for HVAC unit removal within graveled yard.

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



Explanation: All work within existing substation.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: HVAC units would be removed from their current location adjacent to the control house and new HVAC units would be installed on the roof.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours consistent with existing use of facility.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.

### 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: All work on BPA fee-owned property. No visual effects to adjacent landowners.

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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/ Elizabeth Siping  
Elizabeth Siping, KEC-4

Date: June 30, 2015