

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Alderwood Substation Disposition

Project Manager: Joan Kendall, TERR-3

Location: Lane County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to transfer ownership of Alderwood Substation to Blachly-Lane County Cooperative Electric Association, the local electrical utility serving western Lane County. This action would be consistent with BPA's intent to dispose of low voltage substations, defined as those operating below 34.5 kilovolts (kV).

BPA would sell the substation, its equipment and surrounding land, an area totaling 1.6 acres. BPA would retain ownership of one meter panel, a telephone line and a fuel dispensing facility. There would be no change in use and the substation would continue to be operated and maintained by Blachly-Lane. BPA would reserve an easement for maintenance and operation of BPA's Eugene-Alderwood No. 1 115-kV transmission line that terminates at the 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/ Carolyn Sharp

Carolyn Sharp
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Act 1 Group

Reviewed by:

Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 19, 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.

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Project Site Description

Alderwood Substation was constructed in 1982 to serve increasing load growth in the Eugene area. The substation is located on the south side of Oregon Route 36 in rural-residential area with agriculture and forested uses. Located within the Willamette Valley, there are a number of intermittent and perennial streams and wetlands in the vicinity of the substation.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Substation was constructed in 1982. SHPO concurred April 2, 2013 that the substation is not historically-eligible. No comment from tribes consulted – Cow Creek, Grand Ronde, Siletz, Siuslaw, Warm Springs.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use

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

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no change in use

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no change in use

11. **Noise**

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no change in use

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation:

Sale of property only – no ground disturbance or change in use

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: None needed – Property use would remain unchanged and Blachly-Lane would assume operation of the substation. Neighboring properties will not experience any change as a result.

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

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

Date: December 19, 2014