

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Reedsport Substation Upgrades

**Project Manager:** Charley Majors, TEP-CSB-2

**Location:** Reedsport, Douglas County, OR

**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 upgrades to its Reedsport Substation control house within the existing fenced substation property. Reedsport Substation was assessed and found to have several deficiencies in need of improvement. In order to address problems, upgrades to the control house interior and exterior would include:

- Control house heating and air conditioning upgrades
- Control house water heater replacement
- Control house electric wall heater replacement
- Control house ventilation improvements to the bathroom, battery, and communication rooms
- Control house lighting upgrades
- Control house window replacements
- Substation electrical upgrades

All work would take place within the existing control house and no interior walls would be moved or altered. The project would not involve any ground disturbing activities.

**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

David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 31, 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:** Reedsport Substation Upgrades

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### Project Site Description

All work would take place at BPA's Reedsport Substation in Douglas County, Oregon. The substation is adjacent to Highway 101 with residents and businesses nearby.

### 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Reedsport Substation has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. BPA determined that the upgrades would have no adverse effect on historic properties. Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the no adverse effect determination on December 23, 2015. The following tribes were notified of the proposed project and did not respond: Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &amp; Siuslaw Indians, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Control house windows will be replace to resemble original location, configuration and operation of the original wood windows.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to plants would occur.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wildlife would occur.</p>		

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



Explanation: No water bodies present.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No impact to groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: No impact to land use. All work within existing control house.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No impact to visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No impact to air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Minimal temporary construction noise anticipated.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact.

### **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: Notification to surrounding landowners not planned as minimal noise or traffic disturbance anticipated.

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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 – ECT-4

Date: December 31, 2015