

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Anaconda Transformer Installation

PP&A No.: 4146

Project Manager: John Roeder – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Deer Lodge County, Montana

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: The proposed work would occur on BPA-owned land within the substation fence line at Anaconda Substation. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the existing transformer at Anaconda Substation with a new transformer, T-1774. The following actions would be necessary to maintain electrical reliability and compliance with the Clean Water Act:

- Remove oil storage tanks;
- Prepare footings for new 69 kV potential transformers (PTs) and surge arresters at Bay 23;
- Remove existing 230 kV transformers and associated surge arresters;
- Remove existing footings from equipment that would no longer be used;
- Install poles and conductor to create a shoo-fly within the substation;
- Install new transformer (T-1774) and tertiary rack;
- Install various station service panels;
- Install oil containment liner surrounding the footing for the new transformer; and
- Install conduit and cables from transformer T-1774.

Equipment used to perform this work may include a combination of the following: dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, and work trucks. All disturbed areas would be restored at the end of the project.

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/ Emma Reinemann

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Date: April 12, 2019

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

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

The proposed project would be conducted inside the fenceline of Anaconda Substation on BPA-owned property, in the town of Anaconda, Montana in the BPA Kalispell District. The area surrounding the substation is mostly flat with mostly grassy vegetation with some shrubs. The land use in the surrounding area is rural/agricultural.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The BPA Historian has reviewed the undertaking and determined that there would be no potential to effect historic properties. All work proposed as part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard; therefore, there is no potential for effect to cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard. The proposed work would not substantially impact geology and soils.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no Federal/state special-status species in the project area.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work is proposed for this project and there are no floodplains present within the proposed work area. Anaconda Substation is located approximately 650 feet southeast of Mill Creek and approximately 50 feet south of an unnamed tributary to Mill Creek. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground-disturbing activities. Additionally, a construction SPCC plan would be implemented during oil filling and transportation to ensure oil is managed properly and to prevent spills.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: A forested/shrub riparian wetland connected to Mill Creek is located approximately 200 feet north of Anaconda Substation. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground-disturbing activities. Additionally, a construction SPCC plan would be implemented during oil filling and transportation to ensure oil is managed properly and to prevent spills.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: A construction SPCC plan would be implemented for the transportation of the transformers and associated insulating oil. The proposed secondary containment system would prevent any potential future spills from impacting groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. No specially-designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All activities would take place on BPA-owned land.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann

Date: April 12, 2019

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)