

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Intalco Plant Conductor Hardware Replacement

**Project No.:** N0669

**Project Manager:** Gordon Markley – TPCV-TPP-4

**Location:** Whatcom County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** At Alcoa's expense, the Bonneville Power Administration proposes to replace fourteen conductor hardware assemblies for seven low voltage feeders (2 at each feeder) at the Intalco aluminum plant owned by Alcoa. All work would be completed within Alcoa's existing graveled substation yard and no ground disturbance would occur. Not all pot lines are in service and Alcoa would have no problems re-routing power during the short outages needed for the replacement work at each feeder.

**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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 28, 2019

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:** Intalco Plant Conductor Hardware Replacement

---

## Project Site Description

Alcoa's existing substation yard is graveled, paved, surrounded by fencing, and adjacent to BPA's existing Intalco Substation. The yard and BPA's existing Intalco Substation service Alcoa's aluminum plant complex. The plant sits on the banks of the Straits of Georgia near the Canadian border.

## 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> Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance. This type of activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. No consultation or further action under NHPA is needed.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to geology or soils in the area would occur.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance or habitat removal. No impacts to plants or habitat in the area 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> Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance or habitat removal. The work would also cause very minimal temporary noise. No impacts to wildlife or habitat in the area would occur.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish in the surrounding area would occur.</p>		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to wetlands in the surrounding area would occur.</p>		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to groundwater or aquifers in the area would occur.

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



Explanation: Equipment replacement would occur in Alcoa's existing substation yard which is consistent with the existing land use. No impacts to land use or specially designated areas would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Equipment would be replaced in kind. No impacts to visual quality would occur.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The existing yard is rocked or paved and no ground disturbance would occur. No impacts to air quality from dust would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Equipment replacement would cause very minimal temporary noise. No impacts would occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Alcoa would coordinate all outages with BPA's maintenance crew. All typical safety precautions for this type of maintenance work would be followed by the BPA crew. Old equipment would be recycled. No impacts to human health and safety are anticipated.

### **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: All work would be closely coordinated with Alcoa and take place within Alcoa's existing substation yard and generate limited noise. No surrounding notification needed.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn  
Nancy A. Wittpenn – ECT-4

Date: February 28, 2019