

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Potlatch Substation Land Disposal

Project Manager: John Brank—TPCV-OLYMPIA

Location: Mason County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell approximately two acres of land at the Potlatch Substation to Mason Public Utility District (PUD) 3. This land disposal consists of an area that is undeveloped and mostly forested. The sale does not include any equipment or infrastructure.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 15, 2019

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 site is in a remote location approximately twelve miles northwest of Shelton, Washington in Section 22, Township 22N, Range 4 W. The site proposed to be sold is undeveloped. Most of the subject property consists of a stand of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees, with an understory of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), and sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*). The small non-forested area has salal, bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and Scotch broom (*Cystis scoparius*).

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> On November 1, 2018, Section 106 initial consultation letters were sent to Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), Skokomish Tribal Nation, and Squaxin Island Tribe. DAHP concurred on the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) on November 1, 2018. An archaeological survey was conducted on December 10, 2018, and the BPA archaeologist determined that the undertaking would result in No Historic Properties Affected. On December 13, 2018, the survey report and corresponding determination letters were sent to the consulting parties. DAHP concurred with the determination on December 13, 2018. The Skokomish and Squaxin Tribes did not respond.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to plants. There are no federally-listed plants at this location.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wildlife.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to land use or specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no noise impacts.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impacts to 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:

- 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: BPA is the underlying landowner; therefore, notification would not be necessary. Additionally, the proposal does not include any construction or development.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger—ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: January 15, 2019