

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Minidoka Switchyard Temporary Jumpers

Project No.: N/A

Project Manager: Kevlyn Baker – TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Minidoka County, Idaho

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 Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) expense, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to temporarily (less than a day) add jumpers between the Minidoka Power House (PH)-Bridge and Minidoka PH-Unity 138-kV lines on our existing double-circuit structure 0/1 within the Minidoka Switchyard owned by the BOR. This work would give the BOR the clearance and outage they need to do maintenance on their own equipment within the switchyard while maintaining electrical service to customers. All work would be completed within BOR's existing graveled switchyard and no ground disturbance would occur.

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: March 21, 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: Minidoka Switchyard Temporary Jumpers

Project Site Description

BOR's existing switchyard is graveled, paved, and surrounded by fencing. The switchyard is on the banks of Lake Walcott, along the Snake River.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard 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. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to geology or soils in the area would occur.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard and cause no ground disturbance or habitat removal. No impacts to plants or habitat in the area would occur.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard 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. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish in the surrounding area would occur.</p>		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to wetlands in the surrounding area would occur.</p>		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard and cause no ground disturbance. No impacts to groundwater or aquifers in the area would occur.

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



Explanation: The temporary placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would occur in BOR's existing switchyard which is consistent with the existing land use. No impacts to land use or specially designated areas would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The placement and subsequent removal of jumpers would be temporary. 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: The placement and subsequent removal of temporary jumpers would cause very minimal temporary noise. No impacts would occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The BOR would coordinate all outages with BPA's maintenance crew. All typical safety precautions for this type of work would be followed by the BPA crew. 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 the BOR, take place within its existing switchyard, and generate limited noise. No surrounding notification to landowners 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: March 21, 2019