

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sycan Compensation Station Footing Replacement

PP&A No.: 3,713

Project Manager: Rasha Kroonen, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Lake County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating and failing concrete foundations and install additional footings at Sycan Compensation Station No. 1 to ensure safety and grid reliability. Over 150 concrete footing for various pieces of electrical equipment and structures would be replaced and added with depths from 1.5 feet to 4 feet. Work at Sycan Compensation Station No. 1 would occur only within the fence line of the facility. Equipment needed to complete the footing replacements would include two cranes, concrete trucks, and excavators. The proposed work at Sycan Compensation Station No. 1 would take approximately 2 months.

In order to make work at Sycan Compensation Station electrically safe, tower 110/2 on the Grizzly – Captain Jack No. 1 line would need to be modified to a different tower type. The conversion would be accomplished by replacing steel supports, adding arms, and installing new transposition jumpers. A graveled landing, about 1,000 square feet in size, would be constructed at 110/2 to allow for safe equipment placement and would be left in place for future maintenance. The proposed work at tower 110/2 would take approximately three weeks.

Both sites would be accessed using existing roads.

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, Jul. 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/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: September 30, 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.

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Project Site Description

Sycan Compensation Station No.1 and Grizzly – Captain Jack No. 1 tower 110/2 are both located in the Fremont National Forest. Sycan Compensation station is a graveled substation yard surrounded by Fremont pine/fir forest. The terrain surrounding Sycan Compensation Station is flat. There is an intermittent stream, Squaw Creek, located approximately 350 feet to the north. Grizzly – Captain Jack No. 1 tower 110/2 is also located in Fremont pine/fir forest. There are no water bodies within half a mile of the tower in any direction. The terrain on either side of the right-of-way is steep and mountainous.

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> On August 26, 2019, BPA determined that a no adverse effect to the Grizzly-Captain Jack No. 1 Transmission line and Sycan 1 Compensation Station. No additional resources were identified as a result of the cultural resources survey.</p> <p>On September 19, 2019, the Klamath Tribes concurred with the finding of no adverse effect. On September 20, 2019, the Oregon SHPO, above-ground, reviewed the report and concurs with the determination. No other comments or responses have been received from BPA's consultation efforts.</p> <p>In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work shall halt in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by the appropriate consulting parties.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance would occur and erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species would be impacted by this project. All proposed work at Sycan Compensation Station would occur within the existing electric yard which is rocked and has no plants present. At tower 110/2, a small amount of vegetation typical of the existing transmission right-of-way would be permanently removed to create the rocked equipment landing.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Explanation: No special-status animal species would be impacted by this project. Generally, the project would have minimal impacts to wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with elevated noise and human presence. A known golden eagle nest is located within half a mile of the tower location.

Note:

- BPA would schedule noise-generating work outside the critical nesting period, for eagles January 1 to August 31.

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

Explanation: Typical erosion control BMPs would be implemented and no riparian habitat would be affected.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water is proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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

Explanation: The land use at the existing substation and transmission line tower location would not change.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: New footings at Sycaan Compensation Station would not be noticeably different than existing footings. Although the landing would slightly alter the existing visual quality, the proposed landing would be consistent with the visual quality of the existing transmission line right-of way.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health to 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: Coordination has occurred with the Fremont National Forest.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti, EPR-4
Physical Scientist

Date: September 30, 2019