

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Puget Sound Area Northern Intertie-Covington Raver Substation Upgrades (Amendment No. 3; update to previous categorical exclusion issued September 3, 2014).

PP&A No.: 3975

Project Manager: Jay Chester TEPS-TPP-1

Location: Covington and Ravensdale, King 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: BPA proposes several improvements at Covington and Raver substations in King County, Washington as part of the Puget Sound Area Northern Intertie (PASANI) project. In addition to the work described in the previously amended categorical exclusion for this project (September 3, 2014), BPA proposes the following improvements at Raver Substation:

- Relocate low hanging CenturyLink communication cables from the south side of SE Retreat-Kanaskat Road to the north side. The work would include installation of one wood communications pole on the north side of the road.

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/ Kevin George

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Office

Date: April 24, 2020

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: Puget Sound Area Northern Intertie-Covington Raver Substation Upgrades (Amendment No. 3; update to previous categorical exclusion issued September 3, 2014).

Project Site Description

The proposed project is located approx. 3 miles SE of the town of Ravensdale in King County, Washington (Township 21 North, Range 7 East, Section 5). The proposed work area is located on the north side of SE Retreat-Kanaskat Rd. directly across from BPA's Raver Substation. The surrounding area consists of second-growth woodlands and sparsely developed rural residential properties. Vegetation in the area currently consists Scotch broom, grasses and black berry bushes. The project takes place in the King County highway rights-of-way that includes an adjacent drainage ditch. A wetland/pond complex exists approx. 360 feet NW of the proposed work area.

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> Washington State Department of Archology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) issued concurrence on October 28, 2013. BPA reinitiated consultation with DAHP in April 2014 due to addition of the eastern access road reconstruction to project scope. DAHP issued supplemental concurrence on July 10, 2014.</p> <p>During April 2020 BPA reviewed the area for the proposed relocation of the one wood-pole from the south side of SE Retreat-Kanaskat Road to the north side of the road, and concluded that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties within the APE. This is due to the previous road build, as well as the clear-cut logging of the APE between 1987 and 1990 and associated access roads constructed, as well as a new outbuilding constructed between 1994 and 1997. Finally, the cultural resources reports within one-mile, and more specifically just south of the APE across the road, are all negative results for cultural resources.</p> <p>BPA would implement inadvertent discovery protocol in the event cultural resources are encountered during project construction.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: Ground disturbance is proposed for pole installation and disturbed and excess soils would be managed on site with appropriate minimization measures and BMPs.

Note:

- Select and utilize appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) from the most current King Co. Surface Water Design Manual; Appendix D, Erosion and Sediment Control, to maintain all sediment on-site.
- Should excavated soils not be collected for off-site legal disposal, excavated soils from the pole would be spread in a thin layer at the pole site, outside of the adjacent drainage ditch, and vegetatively stabilized using an appropriate seed mix for the location. A slow release fertilizer and cover with weed free mulch and/or erosion control blanket (ECB) would be used.
- All non-permanent BMPs would be collected and disposed of when no longer needed at the site.

3. **Plants** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: Although ground disturbance is proposed, there are not ESA –listed, state-listed, or sensitive plant species known to exist on the site. Disturbed and excess soils would be managed on site and would be reseeded with a native seed mixture.

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



Explanation: No ESA listed, state-listed, or sensitive wildlife species have been documented in or adjacent to the project area and no designated critical habitat is present. Wildlife present on the site during construction activities may be temporarily disturbed by construction traffic and noise, but would likely avoid the area during this time and return once the project work is completed.

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



Explanation: A highway drainage ditch has been identified adjacent to the project work area draining to the NW and potentially to the down gradient wetland/pond complex. Appropriate minimization measures would be implemented to ensure that sediment from pole ground disturbance is not delivered offsite via the roadside drainage ditch.

Note:

- As the proposed pole installation is adjacent to the roadside drainage ditch, appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be used and selected from the most current King Co. Surface Water Design Manual; Appendix D, Erosion and Sediment Control, to maintain all sediment on-site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Appropriate minimization measures would be implemented to ensure that sediment from pole ground disturbance is not delivered to the nearby wetland via the roadside drainage ditch.

Note:

- Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be used and selected from the most current King Co. Surface Water Design Manual; Appendix D, Erosion and Sediment Control, to maintain all sediment on-site and separate any highway runoff from combining project work area runoff.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Ground excavation would not be deep enough to intersect groundwater. The project area is located over the City of Kent's drinking water infiltration gallery and minimization measures would be implemented to minimize the potential for ground water contamination.

Note:

- Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures would be implemented to maintain sediment in the project work area and separated from highway runoff.
- An adequately stocked petroleum product spill response kit and response tools would be available on site.
- All construction equipment would be clean and inspected for oil leaks, and repaired if necessary, prior to equipment being brought on-site.

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

Explanation: The proposed work would be taking place in the King County highway right-of-way where other utilities currently exist and the project would not change the land use or designation of the area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be minimal changes to the visual quality as other wood utility poles are present within the immediate area.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A temporary increase in emissions and dust from vehicles accessing the work site would be very minor and short term during construction, but would return to normal conditions immediately once the project is completed.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: The proposed work would result in a temporary increase in ambient noise. Any noise emitted from construction equipment would be short term and temporary during daylight hours and would cease following project completion.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Work would be taking place in and along SE Retreat-Kanaskat Road and its road shoulders. Flaggers and appropriate road signage would be utilized to warn and manage traffic in and around work areas. Before excavation is to begin appropriately characterize the area for buried and other adjacent utilities. No soil contamination, CERCLA sites, or changes to electric or magnetic fields as a result of the project are anticipated in this area.

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: Century Link, the project operator, is responsible for performing all necessary city, county, and state communications, and obtaining all necessary construction permits.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George
Kevin George, EPI-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 24, 2020