

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Replacement of Vertical Incubators and Juvenile Rearing Tanks at Prosser Hatchery

Project No.: 1997-013-25

Project Manager: Andre L'Heureux, EWU-4

Location: Benton County, WA

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide funding to the Yakama Nation for replacement of vertical fish egg incubators (incubators) and juvenile fish rearing tanks (rearing tanks) at the Prosser Hatchery near Prosser, Washington (WA). Artificial production has been ongoing at the facility since 1997.

This project would replace failing equipment with 10 in-kind incubators and four (4) new rearing tanks. Replacements, including upgraded equipment, would not extend the original intended life of either of the hatcheries, and there would be no increase in the water supply used or the number of fish reared than has been previously authorized. No ground disturbance is proposed.

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/ Michele Palmer

Michele Palmer
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Signed: /s/ *Katey Grange* July 2, 2020
Katey Grange Date
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Replacement of Vertical Incubators and Juvenile Rearing Tanks at Prosser Hatchery

Project Site Description

The Prosser Hatchery is located on a 14-acre parcel on the north side (left bank) of the Yakima River at RM 47, in the northeastern portion of the City of Prosser, WA. The parcel is federal land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The facility has been in operation since 1997. The incubators that would be replaced are situated on the eastern portion of the hatchery site atop a concrete pad inside a building approximately 440 feet from the Yakima River. The rearing tanks that would be replaced are situated on the western portion of the hatchery site in an unenclosed and unpaved area approximately 430 feet from the Yakima River.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No previously undisturbed land or structures would be affected by replacement of incubators and rearing tanks at Prosser Hatchery. No ground disturbance is proposed. On June 30, 2020, BPA historians and archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause significant effects to historic properties. In the event any archaeological material or cultural resources are encountered during project activities, work would be stopped immediately. The BPA archaeologist and historian would be notified, as well as consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No soil would be disturbed for replacement of incubators and rearing tanks at Prosser Hatchery. No excavation or site preparation would be required.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work areas are within an existing hatchery site including a concrete pad inside a pole barn structure for replacement of incubators and a previously disturbed, unpaved area for replacement of rearing tanks. No special-status plant species are present and a minimal area (0.1 acres) of grasses may be disturbed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work areas are within an existing hatchery site including a concrete pad inside a pole barn structure for replacement of incubators and a previously disturbed, unpaved area for replacement of rearing tanks. No wildlife or wildlife habitat would be disturbed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Although work sites are within approximately 430-440 feet of the Yakima River, all activities would occur within previously developed areas. No riparian vegetation would be removed and river/channel banks would not be altered. No in-river/channel work would occur.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project areas are previously disturbed and developed areas; no wetlands are present.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance or groundwater extraction would occur from the activities.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing land uses would remain the same. The work sites are not within a specially designated area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The rearing tanks and incubators would be located in the same areas as existing equipment and an existing structure that houses the incubators would not be altered; rearing tanks are not enclosed within a structure. The visual quality of the site would remain similar to existing conditions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Emissions are anticipated from delivery and installation vehicles. The emissions would be of short duration and consistent in amount and duration with routine vehicle use currently at the hatcheries and surrounding agricultural operations.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Noise is anticipated from delivery and installation vehicles, and installation activities. The noise would be of short duration and not inconsistent in volume or duration with routine activities at the hatcheries and surrounding agricultural operations.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Transportation of incubators and rearing tanks would add to vehicle use of local roads, but that increase would last for only a few days and would not add a large quantity of vehicles. Installation actions at the hatchery would have their attendant risk to operational personnel, but no more than other routine heavy maintenance activities at the hatchery. The risk environment would not change.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The Yakama Nation, operator of the hatchery, would coordinate and carry out the activities at Prosser Hatchery per a Yakama Nation and US Bureau Reclamation Prosser Hatchery Memorandum of Agreement.

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

Signed: /s/ Michele Palmer July 2, 2020
Michele Palmer, ECP-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist