

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: McNary Substation Equipment Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 4369

Project Manager: Deborah Staats, TEPS-TPP-1

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 – Additions and modifications to transmission facilities.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace high voltage equipment in danger of exceeding their rated capabilities at the McNary Substation. Equipment to be added inside the substation yard includes a new Power Circuit Breaker (PCB) in CAP group 1 sections 1 and 2, new conduits and cables, and seismic PCB connections. Equipment to be removed, retired, and disposed of include existing BPA equipment as needed. The proposed work would occur on BPA-owned land within the substation fence line at McNary Substation.

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/ Treicia Albert

Treicia Albert

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Date: March 18, 2020

Sarah T. Biegel

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: McNary Substation Equipment Replacement Project

Project Site Description

The project would take place within the previously disturbed McNary substation yard, which is surrounded by residential and commercial land uses.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work proposed as part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard; therefore, there is no potential for effect to cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would be limited to areas that have been covered by gravel, asphalt, or concrete already. Some minor soil removal would occur where new conduit and grounding would be installed. No impacts to geology and soils are expected from this project.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There is no vegetation in the proposed project area. No plants would be affected by the proposed project.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work is proposed for this project, and there are no floodplains present within the proposed work area. Erosion control measures would be used to prevent off-site sediment migration and a non-regulatory ECP would be prepared for the project. Therefore, there would be no effect to water bodies, floodplains, and fish.		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are some wetlands in the surrounding area about 600 feet to the north of the project area. The minimal disturbance associated with the proposed project would be contained on site. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground-disturbing activities and to keep concrete washout in designated areas. The project would not affect wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Ground excavation would not be to a depth that would intersect groundwater. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground-disturbing activities and to keep concrete washout in designated areas. The project would not affect groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. No specially-designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The addition of new equipment and removal of old equipment would not appreciably change the appearance of the substation. There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Some minor vehicle and equipment emissions are expected during construction. Some very minor dust emissions may also occur during construction. The emissions would be minor and temporary. No impacts to air quality are expected from the proposed project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA owns the substation property.

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

Signed: /s/ Treicia Albert
Treicia Albert
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: March 18, 2020