

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Aberdeen Substation Waterline Replacement Project

Project No.: PID 5116

Project Managers: Christopher Ross – NWM-1

Location: Grays Harbor County, Washington.

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 replace the municipal water supply service into the BPA owned and operated Aberdeen 115 kV substation control house. Currently there is no water service into the substation due to the original galvanized water service line failing at a point between the current meter and the point where the existing supply line enters the control house.

A new water service line would be routed underground from the current water main located to the east of the substation. The new service line would be installed via subgrade horizontal boring. Two boring pits, measuring 5-feet in diameter and 8-feet in depth, would be dug to provide access for the boring machine. One pit would be located within the substation yard and the other in the middle of Ash Street approximately 425 feet to the east. Fill material from the pits would be temporarily stored on-site near each pit. The stored fill material would be used as backfill upon the successful completion of the service line pressure tests.

A subgrade horizontal boring machine would be used to route a new 6-inch-diameter waterline conduit between the two pits, reaching an approximate depth of 14 feet below grade. The horizontal bore would be routed approximately 7 feet under Fry Creek, which occurs between the substation and Ash Street. Post conduit installation, two concrete manhole vaults, measuring 4-feet by 4-feet wide and 8-feet deep would be installed to provide future access to the waterline conduit. An appropriate strength steel access cover would cover the vaults. The city of Aberdeen would install a new 1.5-inch water meter on the southern edge of the intersection on Ash and Hemlock Street. BPA would interconnect to the new water meter and route a 1.5-inch-diameter water service line from the meter to the eastern vault using a trench measuring, 36-inches wide, 14-feet long and 6-feet deep. The eastern trench would be located in the middle of Ash Street; the road surface would be cut and removed providing access for the trench. The trench would be back-filled and the road surface would be patched with like materials after the service line is pressurized.

The new water line would continue to the west from the eastern vault to the western substation vault via the new conduit. A trench measuring 36-inches deep, 12 inches wide and 50-feet long would be used to connect the water line from the western vault to the new pressure relief valve and back-flow preventer to be installed near the northeast corner of the substation control house.

The pressure and back-flow valve would be installed in a self-contained enclosure measuring 40-inches long, 24-inches wide and 6-inches deep. The existing control house plumbing would be connected to the new back-flow preventer valve. The current water service line would be disconnected and left buried in place. The city of Aberdeen would remove the old water meter. Any excess fill not used on site would be disposed of at an approved facility. Equipment used includes a small excavator backhoe, trenching machine, horizontal boring machine, vacuum truck, small dump truck, cement truck and associated hand tools.

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/ Nicholas Johnson
Nicholas Johnson
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange 11/30/2021
Katey C. 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: Aberdeen Substation Waterline Replacement Project

Project Site Description

The Aberdeen substation waterline project mainly occurs on BPA fee-owned property located in Grays Harbor County, Washington Township 17 north Range 9 west Section 7. The point of interconnection into the City of Aberdeen's municipal water supply is located within city property associated with Ash and Hemlock streets' rights-of-way. The areas to the west and south of the substation are industrial use, to the north is wooded areas along with the associated high-voltage power line corridors and to the east is residential neighborhoods. Fry Creek is located within the project area between the substation and Ash Street. Project work would occur outside the normal high-water line associated with Fry Creek. Access to the project location is provided by the existing substation road and Ash and Hemlock streets that are paved public roads.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA cultural resources staff initiated consultation including the area of potential effect on June 24, 2021 with the Quinault, Shoalwater and Chehalis tribes along with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office. It was concluded that the actions proposed by this project would result in no historic properties being affected. The Washington State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the no affect findings on June 28, 2021. BPA did not receive a response from the other consulting parties within 30 days.

Notes:

- In the unlikely event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity would stop, the area would be secured, and BPA's cultural resources would be notified.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project actions would have ground disturbance totaling less than 0.5 acres in size. Soil compaction would be avoided by equipment being located on paved roads and the gravel substation yard. Fill would be spread on site post completion, removing and disposing any excess fill off-site as necessary. Any disturbed areas would be restored back to a similar state post project completion to avoid the potential for erosion.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known occurrences of threatened or endangered plants are located with the project areas. Project actions would not affect local vegetation within the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known occurrences of threatened or endangered wildlife are located within project areas. Project locations are not located within any defined critical habitat areas. Local wildlife could be disturbed by construction activities, but would only occur for a few days.

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

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: Project actions would not occur directly within waterways or fish habitat. The actions located to the east would occur within 200 feet of the riparian area of Fry Creek, which is used for migration by several threatened anadromous species. Water quality would not be impacted by the proposed actions.

Notes:

- Spill kits would be on site and readily available to contain any inadvertent spills.
- Silt fencing and bio-bags would be in place prior to the project along the entire perimeter of the project area along the side of the road near Fry Creek.
- Bio-bags would be placed along the storm drain near the ditch along Ash and Hemlock Street.
- Any disturbed areas that are not covered with gravel or pavement would be re-seeded using a native grass seed mix.
- Excess fill temporarily stored would be covered by plastic tarps to avoid storm water to move sediment away from the storage location.
- All fill removed would be tested for contaminants prior to being used as back-fill.
- Any fill that is found to contain any contaminants would be disposed of at an appropriate facility. Any additional fill needed would be contaminants free.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project location is not located within known wetland areas.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Boring pits would be lined with plastic during operation and excess water used during boring would be removed with a vacuum truck and disposed of at an appropriate facility. Project actions would not affect groundwater resources.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions are co-located within previously disturbed areas. Land use would remain the same. The point of interconnection into the city of Aberdeen's municipal water supply is located within city property and delineated coastal zone governed by Grays Harbor County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) under the Coastal Zone Management Act. BPA prepared a negative effect determination for shoreline and water resources. BPA's determination was concurred as being consistent with Grays Harbor SMP by the State of Washington department of Ecology on November 23, 2021.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Visual quality would remain the same as existing conditions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions could create some dust associated with vehicle traffic and general construction actions. Air quality impacts from dust would be relatively minimal and in a short duration.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have noise associated with the general construction equipment used to replace the equipment. Noise would be occurring during daylight hours and occurring over 3 days in total.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Crews would follow all applicable health and safety protocols.

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: Majority of the project occurs on BPA fee-owned land. The city of Aberdeen is a cooperating partner for this project and is the landowner for the portion of the project located off BPA property. The city of Aberdeen would notify the private landowners near the project location. Both the city of Aberdeen and BPA's real property services group would be the primary point of contact to address any nearby landowner concerns or questions.

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

Signed: /s/ Nicholas Johnson 11/30/2021
Nicholas Johnson, ECT Date
Environmental Protection Specialist