

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Disconnect Switch Acquisition at Biglow Canyon Substation

Project Manager: Kimberly D. Gilliland, TSE-TPP-2

Location: Sherman County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to acquire ownership of one existing 230-kilovolt (kV) disconnect switch and associated structures and hardware (e.g., 230-kV bus work, fittings, insulators, steel support structures, foundations, etc.). Portland General Electric Company (PGE) currently owns the equipment, which is located within PGE's Biglow Canyon Substation near Wasco, Sherman County, Oregon (Township 2 North, Range 18 East, Section 19). The equipment does not contain hazardous materials (e.g., oil or polychlorinated biphenyls). The acquisition would not require any ground disturbance and would not result in any modifications to existing facilities.

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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol P. Leiter

Carol P. Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange

March 15, 2022

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: Disconnect Switch Acquisition at Biglow Canyon Substation

Project Site Description

The disconnect switch is located on PGE fee-owned property within PGE's Biglow Canyon Substation near Wasco, Sherman County, Oregon (Township 2 North, Range 18 East, Section 19). No on-the-ground work at Biglow Canyon Substation would be required.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Biglow Canyon is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and the proposed undertaking would not require any ground disturbance that could affect archaeological resources. Therefore, the proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact water bodies or floodplains and would have no effect on fish species or habitats.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact land use or specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact noise.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is an equipment acquisition only. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact human health and 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: 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: BPA has been coordinating the disconnect switch acquisition with PGE, which owns Biglow Canyon Substation. No other landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette March 15, 2022
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC