

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Clallam PUD Interconnection at Port Angeles Substation

**Project No.:** L0386

**Project Manager:** Mike Henjum – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Clallam County, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities; B4.8 Electricity transmission agreements.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Clallam PUD to interconnect their new substation into BPA's existing Port Angeles Substation. Clallam PUD plans to convert their existing 69kV connection out of Port Angeles which feeds their Laird and Airport substations to 115kV and tap it to their existing 115kV feeder line served by the Port Angeles Substation.

To accommodate this interconnection, BPA would retire the existing 69kV position within the Port Angeles Substation (including removing circuit breakers, jumpers, current transformers, and other equipment) and replace the relays within the existing control house.

All BPA work would occur within the existing Port Angeles Substation yard on BPA fee-owned land.

**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/ Douglas Corkran*

Douglas Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>July 25, 2022</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	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:** Clallam PUD Interconnection at Port Angeles Substation

## **Project Site Description**

The Port Angeles Substation is located on level ground in an urbanized area of the City of Port Angeles, WA. A residential area sits across the street to the west of the substation and Peninsula College is located directly east. Vegetated transmission line right of way (ROW) is located to the north and south off the substation, and contains a mix of conifers and low-growing vegetation.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Port Angeles Substation was determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places; however, BPA determined on February 24, 2022, that the proposed project would not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place within the substation fenced and graveled yard. Any soil disturbance from removal of equipment would be limited and within the substation area. No impacts to geology and soils would result from the proposed project.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place within the substation fenced and graveled yard. No vegetation is present within the project area. No impacts to plants would result from the proposed project.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no wildlife habitat within the project area. Vegetated areas exist north and south of the substation and provide habitat for common wildlife species. No special-status species are known to exist in or around the project area. Indirect impacts to common wildlife species could occur from noise and disturbance during construction; however, these would be minor and temporary. No significant impacts to wildlife are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies or floodplains are located in or near the project area. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish would occur.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are located in or near the project area. No impacts to wetlands would occur.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place within the fenced substation yard, which contains stormwater management facilities. Any spills of fuel or oil would be immediately cleaned up or collected by these facilities and would not reach groundwater or aquifers. No impacts to groundwater or aquifers would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No changes in land use are proposed, and no specially-designated areas exist within the project area. No impacts to land use or specially-designated areas would occur.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor changes to the appearance of the substation from removal of the 69kV equipment would occur, but these would not be readily noticeable from nearby vantage points, and the overall appearance of the substation would remain the same. No impacts to visual quality are expected.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor fugitive dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, these would be minor and temporary. No significant impacts to air quality are expected from the proposed project.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some noise would occur from equipment used to remove the 69kV equipment; however, it would be similar to other ongoing operations at the substation. Noise impacts would be minor and limited to the construction period. No significant impacts to noise are expected.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any hazardous materials encountered during construction would be disposed of properly and would not migrate off site. No impacts to human health and safety are expected.

### 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: None required; all work would take place within an existing active substation yard.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran July 25, 2022  
Douglas Corkran Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist