

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Sale of Hampton Butte Radio Station

**Project Manager:** Roderick Morris

**Location:** Deschutes County, OR

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B.1.24 Property Transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to sell the BPA Hampton Butte Radio Station in Deschutes County, Oregon to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The land is currently owned by BLM and the transfer of sale from BPA would be "Equipment Only".

**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/ Sylas Daughtrey

Sylas Daughtrey

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

October 28, 2022

Date

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:** Sale of Hampton Butte Radio Station

## **Project Site Description**

The Hampton Butte Radio Station was energized in 1968 and includes electrical equipment, communication tower, and operation house with established dirt road access. The legal parcel description is Township 21 South, Range 20 East, and SEC2. The surrounding land consists of high desert landscape with rolling hills and mountainous topography occupied by sage brush and juniper. Mixed agricultural areas are located approximately three miles southwest of radio site.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work does not include any ground-disturbing activities that would affect cultural or historic resources. BPA Historian review has shown that the proposed project would have no potential to cause effect to historic properties.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work does not include any ground-disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to land use or specially-designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in the appearance of the substation is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to visual quality.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to air quality.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no noise impacts.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA's Pollution Prevention & Abatement group reviewed the property and determined that there is no evidence to indicate that hazardous substance activity is present or took place on the property during BPA's ownership. There would be no impacts to 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: Hampton Butte Radio Station is located on BLM fee-owned property. No additional 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/ Sylas Daughtrey October 28, 2022  
Sylas Daughtrey Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist