

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Malin Substation 6GHz Radio and Antenna Replacement

**Project No.:** P06015

**Project Manager:** Scott Lissit, TEPF-3

**Location:** Klamath County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the two 6 GHz microwave radios at the communications facility at Malin Substation. The project involves the removal and replacement of existing antennas, radios, waveguide, and associated equipment. New antennas would be replaced in-kind and in the same location as the existing antennas. The radios are proposed to be replaced as part of a project with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) who purchased new radios for the Malin Substation (BPA) and the PG&E-owned Timber Mountain and Happy Camp radio stations, which are on the same frequency and radio path. PG&E replaced the radios at Timber Mountain and Happy Camp locations and BPA would replace the radios at Malin 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, 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.

Jeremy Doschka  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
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:** Radio and Antenna Replacement at Malin Substation

## **Project Site Description**

The communication facility is located at BPA's Malin Substation in Klamath County, Oregon. The substation is located in a narrow valley surrounded by undeveloped hills comprised of sparse shrub woodlands and exposed rocky slopes along the east side of the substation. All work would occur on the existing communications tower and buildings within the graveled substation yard.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA historian reviewed the proposed project actions and determined that the project has no potential to cause effects to historic resources in a memo dated April 10, 2024.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located on a communications tower within the Malin Substation with no ground disturbing activities. The project would not impact geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located on a communications tower within the Malin Substation with no plants present. No impacts to plants would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project is located on a communications tower within the Malin Substation with no wildlife present. No impacts to wildlife would occur.

Notes:

- If any active nests are found on the communication tower prior to construction, the construction would be delayed until the nest is unoccupied.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located on a communications tower within the Malin Substation with no water bodies present. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish would occur.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located on a communications tower within the Malin Substation with no wetlands present. No impacts to wetlands would occur.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not involve ground-disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not involve any land use changes. All work would occur within the Malin substation.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not result in a change to the visual characteristics of the substation; therefore, no impacts to visual quality are expected.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no substantial changes to air quality during or after construction.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor construction equipment-related noise would occur during construction but would be similar in nature to other noise-producing activities at the substation. No long-term impacts from noise are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During project activities, all standard safety protocols would be followed. 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: 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: The project would occur at BPA facilities and would not require landowner involvement.

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

Signed:

Jeremy Doschka  
Environmental Protection Specialist