

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross Substation Security Enhancement

Project No.: P04963

Project Manager: Micaiah Watkins, TEPF-CSB-2

Location: Clark County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic Equipment; B.2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to make updates to physical security systems to meet current North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) 006 requirements inside the control house located at BPA's Ross Substation in Clark County, Washington. Proposed work elements include the design and installation of a new security-system control cabinet, intrusion detection system, physical access control system, and integrated video assessment system. BPA would also physically treat all basement windows in the three basement rooms of the control house with new security grillage attached to the inside of the basement windows and not readily visible from the exterior.

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.

Christopher H. Furey
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: Ross Substation Security Enhancement

Project Site Description

The project site consists of the existing BPA Ross Substation control house in Clark County, WA. The Ross complex is a fenced facility and accessible by paved road. The surrounding area outside of the Ross complex consists of some commercial and suburban development.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the installation of the fencing and gates does not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to soils and geology for this work within the control house at Ross Substation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur and no plants would be disturbed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur at control house of existing fenced facility with no impacts to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur at control house of existing fenced facility with no impacts to water bodies.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetland areas are nearby the control house and would not be impacted by the project.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur for this project including the addition of security grillage on the control house basement windows.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in the overall visual character of the outside of the facility would occur.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with increased vehicle traffic and equipment use would occur during construction.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any hazardous materials such as batteries generated would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste disposal facility. Workers on the project would be required to follow all applicable state and/or Federal safety standards as the work would occur from inside the substation grounds. In addition, the proposed work furthers BPA's compliance with NERC-CIP standards, and protects critical assets to help provide for a safe and reliable network for the region.

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 Transmission will be conducting work inside the control house at the BPA Ross Substation complex.

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

Signed:

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist