

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Snohomish Public Utility District Battery Energy Storage System Interconnection

Project No.: G0832

Project Manager: Chad Caldwell – TPCF-OLYMPIA

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):
B1.7 Electronic Equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install wiring for telemetry equipment in BPA's Murray Substation and perform associated programming in BPA's control center to interconnect the Snohomish Public Utility District (PUD) 25 MW large generator interconnection battery energy storage system (BESS) request. The point of integration is the Snohomish PUD's new 12.47 kilovolt (kV) Crosswind Substation served by the BPA Murray 115kV Substation. All BPA work is limited to the interior of the substation and control center, and no ground disturbance is proposed.

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.

Michael J. O'Connell
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Sarah T. Biegel
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.

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Project Site Description

All activities of the project implementation would occur in existing substations in the Seattle metropolitan area, involve some wiring work, software programming, and monitoring of meter equipment installation.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA historian found, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), that the project would have No Potential to Cause Effects to historical resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no ground disturbance to implement the project.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work is inside electrical substation facilities.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work is indoors.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work is indoors.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work is indoors.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work is indoors and would not require accessing groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Snohomish PUD and BPA own and operate the facilities where the project would be implemented – no other lands or specially-designated areas are involved for project implementation.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work is indoors, and no visual or aesthetic resources would be impacted.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special or heavy equipment would be utilized, and the work of the project would create no other concerns pertaining to air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no loud noise produced by the project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All personnel that would work on the project would hold all necessary safety clearances for work inside electrical transmission facilities.

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: Snohomish PUD and BPA are the owners and operators of the facilities of the project; no other landowner would need notification, involvement, or coordination.

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

Signed:

Michael J. O'Connell
Environmental Protection Specialist