

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Generator Purchase and Installation at Walla Walla Community College

**Project No.:** 1994-026-00 (Contract Number 73982 REL 211)

**Project Manager:** James Barron, EWU-4

**Location:** Walla Walla County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to purchase and install a backup generator for the Water and Environmental Center Lab (WECL) at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) in Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington. The generator would only be operated in an emergency to provide backup power for equipment associated with CTUIR Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel projects. The generator would be installed on the south side of the WECL in an area that is already pre-finished with concrete and surrounded by a security fence. Fuel would be supplied from an existing natural gas supply line. No ground disturbance would be required. WWCC would own the generator and would contribute to the routine maintenance and operation of the generator. Funding supports ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the main stem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.).

**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.

Walker Stinnette  
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:** Generator Purchase and Installation at Walla Walla Community College

## **Project Site Description**

The project site is on the south side of the WECL at WWCC in Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington (Township 7 North, Range 36 East, Section 23). The backup generator would be installed near existing equipment (e.g., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC] condensers) in an area that is already pre-finished with concrete and surrounded by a security fence. No vegetation, wildlife habitat, wetlands, or surface waters are present.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA has determined, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), that this undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present. No further action is needed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not require any ground disturbance. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not require any ground disturbance, and no vegetation is present. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on plant species or habitat.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No suitable wildlife habitat is present. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on wildlife species or habitat.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact water bodies or floodplains and would have no effect on fish species or habitats.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not require any ground disturbance. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not result in a change in land use, and the project site is not in a specially-designated area.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would be consistent with the existing visual quality of the project site.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Operation of the emergency generator would result in a small quantity of emissions. However, the backup generator would only be operated in emergency situations and would not result in substantial air quality impacts.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would result in minor and temporary noise during installation. The backup generator would be located near existing noise-generating equipment (e.g., HVAC condensers), and there are no noise-sensitive land uses in the vicinity. Given surrounding ambient noise and that the backup generator would only be operated in emergency situations, the proposed action would not result in substantial noise impacts.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All standard safety protocols would be followed throughout implementation of the proposed action to minimize risk to human health and safety. Therefore, the proposed action would not be expected to impact 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: The proposed action would occur on land owned by WWCC. The CTUIR has been in coordination with WWCC. 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:

Walker Stinnette  
Environmental Protection Specialist