

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Harrisburg Substation Battery Replacement

**PP&A No.:** 5112

**Project Manager:** Michael Henjum

**Location:** Linn County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.7 Electronic equipment, B1.23 Demolition and disposal of buildings, B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to demolish an aging 12.5kV control house and replace a 48VDC control voltage breaker. The new breaker would work with the 130VDC batteries located in the existing 115kV control house. All existing batteries and equipment from the demolished control house would be removed or replaced and relocated into the existing 115kV control house. BPA would also install new 4-inch conduit within the substation fence line to realign and connect the existing substation infrastructure and new metering and control racks inside the existing control house. The materials from the removed control house would be removed from the site and the old footprint would be covered with substation yard rock and appear similar to the rest of the yard. All work would be inside the footprint of the Harrisburg Substation in Linn County, Oregon.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, repair, relocate, and replace the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto. (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838i(b)). The Administrator is further charged with maintaining electrical stability and reliability, selling transmission and interconnection services, and providing service to BPA's customers. (16 U.S.C § 838b(b-d)). The Administrator is also authorized to conduct electrical research, development, experimentation, tests, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities. (16 U.S.C § 838i(b)(3)).

**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/ Steven Selser  
Steven D. Selser  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange  
Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer Date: March 3, 2025

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: Harrisburg Substation Battery Replacement**

## **Project Site Description**

The project would be located at the Harrisburg Substation in Linn County, Oregon. The land is BPA owned property and is currently cleared of vegetation and covered with gravel and substation yard rock.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Pursuant to its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800, BPA initiated consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians on January 7, 2025. BPA has previously determined that the Harrisburg Substation is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with SHPO concurrence.

SHPO concurred with the Area of Potential Effect and the finding of no adverse effect to historic properties on January 23, 2025. No other responses were received within 30 days. In the unlikely event that cultural resources or historic properties are inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA will require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal ground disturbance would occur in the areas where trenching for conduit and the building removal would occur. Disturbed areas would be backfilled and gravel would be replaced.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal listed or State special-status species or habitat is located at the project site. The work area is graveled and no vegetation is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area does not include habitat for any Federal or State special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area. Project activities would be limited to inside the fence line of the already impacted energized substation and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would not be permanently affected.

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

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized to ensure sediment and other contaminants do not enter bodies of water; therefore, water bodies, floodplains, and fish would not be affected by the proposed project activities.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands within or near the project area.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would adhere to appropriate best management practices to prevent impacts to groundwater.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No specially-designated areas were identified within the project area. Land use would not change as a result of project activities.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Limited impacts to visual quality. The old building would be removed, but the substation would have a similar visual quality.

#### **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a small, temporary impact on air quality from vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

#### **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operation noise of the emergency generator would not change.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. 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: The removed batteries would be taken to BPA's Investment Recovery Center (IRC) for processing. Any potential lead-based paint or asbestos containing material associated with the old building would be mitigated during removal and disposed of in accordance with BPA's hazardous waste standards.

**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: All work would be completed on BPA owned property; no further coordination is required.

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

Signed: /s/ Steven Selser  
Steven D. Selser  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: March 3, 2025