Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: McArthur Lake Equipment Shed

Project No.: 1988-065-00

Project Manager: Virginia Preiss, ECF-4

Location: Boundary County, ID

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.15 Support buildings

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to install two pre-fabricated metal sheds within the existing IDFG facility that houses the Kootenai River Native Fish Mitigation project. The proposed metal sheds would be constructed in an area currently consisting of a gravel parking area between an existing IDFG residence and the BPA Sand Creek-Bonner's Ferry transmission line right-of-way. The sheds would be used to house camp trailers that provide housing for project staff, as well as for storage of miscellaneous equipment.

This project would support conservation of ESA-listed species considered in the 2020 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the operation and maintenance of the Columbia River System. This project would also support ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the FCRPS on fish and wildlife in the mainstem 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 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. [1]

EDWARD GRESH

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Ted Gresh
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

KATEY GRANGE

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Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

[1] BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to the interim final rule to revise DOE NEPA regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 and NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated June 30, 2025), to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

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: McArthur Lake Equipment Shed

Project Site Description

The proposed building would be constructed in an area currently consisting of a gravel parking area between an existing IDFG residence and the BPA Sand Creek-Bonner's Ferry (SDCK-BOFE) transmission line right-of-way.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: BPA determined that the implementation of the proposed project would result in no adverse effect to historic properties, based on background research and site surveys completed in 2025 (BPA CR Project No. ID 2024 079). BPA consulted with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (IDSHPO) on the project. The IDSHPO concurred with the determination of effects on October 16, 2025. No other responses were received within 30 days.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The proposed action could cause ground disturbance on previously disturbed ground. Standard construction best management practices (BMPs) would be used for sediment control. Therefore, there would be minimal impact to soil and no impact to geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: All work would occur within the IDFG facility where no vegetation occurs. Therefore, the proposed actions would not impact plants

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: All work would occur within the IDFG facility where no habitat for wildlife occurs. It is presumed wildlife in the area would be accustomed to increased human presence due to the surrounding commercial and residential development. Overall, the proposed actions would have minimal impact on wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no waterbodies present within the project site. McArthur Lake is located approximately 500 feet southwest of the project site; it would not be within the project 's

footprint. Standard construction BMPs would prevent inadvertent leaks (i.e., fuel) from reaching the lake. Therefore, there would be no impact to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no wetlands present within the project site and therefore they would not be impacted by the proposed project.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Ground disturbance would not reach groundwater depth and no changes to wells or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed actions would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The two sheds would be located on IDFG property and would be consistent with existing equipment at the facility. No changes to the existing land use or specially designated areas are proposed.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Minor changes to visual quality would occur due to placement of the two new sheds; they would be consistent with the other structures that already exist at the IDFG facility. Therefore, the proposed action would have minimal impact on visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during placement and securing of the sheds; however, there would be no substantial changes to air quality due to the proposed actions.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Noise from equipment used to place and secure the sheds would temporarily and sporadically increase noise above current ambient conditions; however, no long-term impacts from noise are expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No or No with Condition

Explanation: IDFG would adhere to all safety requirements. Therefore, the proposed project would not 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: IDFG owns the property where the sheds would be placed.

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

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