

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Troutdale Substation Terminal Expansion

Project No.: P03835 / G0609

Project Manager: Charla Burke, TEPS-TPP-1

Location: Multnomah County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric power substation and interconnection facilities; B1.7 Electronic equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to add a new 230-kV terminal at the Troutdale Substation Bay 15 to support the newly constructed Troutdale Battery Energy Storage System. Equipment would include a circuit breaker, disconnect switches, and control equipment. Concrete footings would be required to support the new equipment. BPA would also install a monopole, new vault, and two small segments of underground conduit for new fiber connections within the substation fence. Additional fiber would be routed around the site using existing underground conduit and vaults. There would also be communication and control equipment upgrades installed in the interior of the Troutdale Substation Control House.

The substation modifications would be conducted to support BPA's interconnection of Troutdale Grid's 400 MW Energy Storage Project into BPA's Troutdale Substation.

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 1021.102 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

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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: Troutdale Substation Terminal Expansion

Project Site Description

The work areas within the fenced substation area are hardscaped or gravel substation areas. The site areas outside the fenced substation are comprised of gravel, rock, and small brush and grass areas. The substation is within an area that has been developed by the Port of Portland as part of the Troutdale-Reynolds Industrial Park with commercial businesses including the Troutdale Airport. Company Lake and a wetland area is located over 350 feet north of the project area. The Columbia River is over 2,700 feet north of the project area.

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), Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe on June 16, 2025. BPA had previously determined that the Troutdale Substation is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Troutdale Control House is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. There are no other known historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The Oregon SHPO concurred with the APE and the finding of no adverse effect to historic properties on July 15, 2025. No other responses were received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be soil disturbance inside and outside the substation fenceline for installation of the new footings, pole, and vaults that may be needed. Digging would be necessary for the project to install the equipment, and excess soil would be disposed of at a BPA approved site.

Notes:

- Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit soil transport by wind and water during construction.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale substation with minimal impacts to plants. Some small brush that has grown in previously-disturbed natural soils outside the fenceline may be removed to facilitate access.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale Substation in an industrial park that is low quality habitat for wildlife and thus would have minimal impacts to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale Substation without impacts to water bodies, floodplains, and fish. The closest water body is Company Creek that is located over 350 feet north of the project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale Substation with no wetlands so no impacts to wetlands. The closest wetland area is over 350 feet north of the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale Substation with shallow digging without impacts to groundwater and aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale Substation consistent with existing substation land use without impacts to land use and specially designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project additions would be consistent with the existing visual quality of Troutdale Substation.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur at Troutdale Substation without lasting impacts to air quality. Best management practices (BMPs) for dust management and erosion control would be utilized.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Operational noise after installation would be consistent with current substation operations. During installation of equipment, there would involve some temporary noise, but this noise level would be consistent with other uses in the industrial area.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Workers on the project would be required to follow all applicable state and/or Federal safety standards as the construction work would occur on substation property.

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 Troutdale Substation is within an area designated as the Reynolds Superfund Site Oregon due to groundwater contamination. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the Department of Energy, BPA, and the Environmental Protection Agency on December 14, 2010. The agreement restricted ground-disturbing activities on BPA's substation property, specifically addressing potential impacts to groundwater as a result of activities occurring at a depth greater than 15 feet. The proposed project excavation would be less than 15 feet in depth.

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: Troutdale Substation is a BPA substation.

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