

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Post-2028 Residential Exchange Program RPSA Development

Project Manager: Paulina Cornejo, PSRF-6

Location: Portland, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.1 Contracts, Policies, and Marketing and Allocation Plans for Electric Power; B4.4 Power Marketing Services and Activities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to develop and execute Residential Purchase and Sale Agreements (RPSAs) for the post-2028 Residential Exchange Program (REP). BPA is required to implement the REP under Section 5(c) of the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act)(16 U.S.C. § 839c(c)). The current 2012 REP settlement agreement expires on September 30, 2028, and would be succeeded by the proposed post-2028 REP contracts for which these RPSAs are being prepared.

BPA developed the RPSA template through a public stakeholder engagement process that ran from the summer of 2025 through early 2026. The RPSA template contains the terms and conditions for participation in the program, including accounting and invoicing methods, dispute resolution procedures, and other contract terms necessary for implementation of the program.

Developing and executing RPSAs would be an entirely administrative task and would not require any changes to BPA's transmission system, nor any construction of new generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. Existing generation resources would continue to operate within their normal operating limits. Developing and executing RPSAs would not require that BPA take any action that would have the potential to affect the human environment. BPA expects to begin executing these agreements with participating utilities in the spring of 2026.

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 the current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures*, 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.

Thomas DeLorenzo
Environmental Policy Analyst

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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: Post-2028 Residential Exchange Program RPSA Development

Project Site Description

BPA is a federal power marketing agency which markets and delivers the electricity generated by 31 federal hydroelectric projects in the Columbia River basin, one non-federal nuclear power plant, and a small number of other non-federal resources. BPA is headquartered in Portland, Oregon and owns and maintains more than 15,000 circuit miles of transmission lines and associated transmission infrastructure throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on historic and cultural resources from the proposed actions.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on geology and soils from the proposed actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Thirteen Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plant species are present throughout BPA's service territory, along with dozens of additional state special-status species. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on plants from the proposed actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Twenty ESA-listed wildlife species are present throughout BPA's service territory, along with numerous additional state special-status species. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation

projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on wildlife from the proposed actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Nine ESA-listed fish species are present throughout BPA's service territory, along with numerous other additional state special-status marine species. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on fish and water bodies from the proposed actions.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Wetlands are present throughout BPA's service territory. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure in and around wetlands. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on wetlands from the proposed actions.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No actions are proposed which would affect groundwater and aquifers. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on groundwater and aquifers from the proposed actions.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No changes in landownership, including the acquisition, exchange, or dispossession of federally held land or property rights, are proposed. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on property and land use from the proposed actions.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure that would cause changes in local visual quality. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on visual quality from the proposed actions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed actions would not generate exhaust or emissions. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on air quality from the proposed actions.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed actions would not generate noise. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature. No actions would require any new construction of generation facilities or transmission infrastructure. All generation projects would continue to operate within normal operating limits and use the existing transmission system. As a result, there would be no significant effects on noise from the proposed actions.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All personnel would use best practices to ensure human health and safety. The proposed development and execution of RPSAs would be purely administrative in nature and would be very unlikely to have significant effects on 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: BPA developed the RPSA template through a public stakeholder engagement process which ran from the summer of 2025 through early 2026. No further outside 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:

Thomas DeLorenzo
Environmental Policy Analyst