

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Urgent Replacement of Motor-Operated Disconnect (MOD) at Marion Substation

**PP&A No.:** 7032

**Project Manager:** Darin Bowman – TEPS-CSB-2

**Location:** Marion County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.7 Electronic equipment

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to remove and replace a MOD at the Marion Substation. The work would include removal and replacement of an associated concrete footing and would require about 75 feet of 3-foot-wide trenching to install new conduit. All work would occur within the existing substation fenceline.

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 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.

/s/ Steven Selser

Steven D. Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey C. Grange

Date: March 5, 2026

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:** Urgent Replacement of Motor-Operated Disconnect (MOD) at Marion Substation

## **Project Site Description**

The project would be located within the graveled and fenced yard at BPA's Marion Substation, in Marion County Oregon. Land use is an electrical substation yard.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Per the BPA Manual for Built Resources, the proposed activities fall under Activities Requiring Screening. Pursuant to the *Programmatic Agreement between BPA, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to Implement the BPA Manual for Built Resources* no further Section 106 review or consultation is required.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during footing removal. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to vegetation is anticipated. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species. No impacts to state or federally sensitive species are anticipated. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted substation yard.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have very little impact on wildlife as all work would be conducted within the substation yard; there would be no loss of wildlife habitat. The project would have no impact on state or federally listed sensitive species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is not located within a floodplain and there are no nearby water bodies that support resident, anadromous, or ESA-listed fish. Erosion control best

management practices combined with the distance to the nearest waterbody would ensure that sedimentation would not enter any water body.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are within the project area.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 5 feet below ground surface.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use. No specially-designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within an existing substation yard and would retain the visual character of substation equipment.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

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

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe use of the transmission grid which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

### **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: All activities would occur on BPA owned property.

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 Selser  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: March 5, 2026