

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY21 Tacoma Substation Sewer Upgrade Project

PP&A No.: 4666

Project Manager: Chris Ross

Location: Pierce County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plans to fund the City of Tacoma to provide a sewer connection stub from Taylor Way into BPA fee-owned property near the entrance of Tacoma Substation in Pierce County, Washington. The City of Tacoma is currently conducting their Taylor Way Rehabilitation Project, which includes road paving and upgrading utilities, including sewer. While the Port of Tacoma is conducting their work, BPA has requested a sewer connection stub in case future needs require sewer connection of the Tacoma Substation.

Sewer connection stub work would include: trenching to an approximate depth of 5ft for a length of approximately 170ft from Taylor Way, excavating and installing one new manhole, backfilling trench. General equipment used for this type of project includes graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

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/ Chad Browning
Chad Browning
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 24, 2021

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.

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Project Site Description

Proposed activities are located within the Taylor Way public road bed and a 20-ft section of undeveloped BPA property near the entrance to BPA's Tacoma Substation, east of Tacoma, WA. Elevation (above mean sea level) within the project area ranges from approximately 5 to 15 feet. The project area spans two parcels, one is publicly owned by the Port of Tacoma and the other is BPA fee-owned property. Land use in the surrounding area includes industrial and urban development.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project area was surveyed and consulted upon by BIA as part of the larger Taylor Way Rehabilitation Project by the Port of Tacoma. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. The established APE was approved by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on September 24, 2018. No cultural resources were encountered in the APE and it was recommended a determination of No Historic Properties Affected. Due to extensive history of fill and some intact cultural resources recorded beneath the fill, monitoring is recommended during construction where depth of construction is proposed to extend beyond the documented fill deposits. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with the recommended findings on February 4, 2019..

In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; DAHP; and the appropriate local, state and Federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Sewer line construction would disturb approximately 170 linear feet at a width of 5 feet (less than 0.1 acre). BMPs would be used to prevent erosion and disturbed areas would be either paved over or reseeded. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Vegetation removal would be limited to those within the immediate vicinity of the trench and new manhole. No Federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area. Any disturbed areas outside the road bed would be reseeded.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The area provides minimal wildlife habitat. No Federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitats are recorded in the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project; and the nearest water bodies containing populations of anadromous fish, or their critical habitat is more than 500 feet from the proposed project area.

Additionally, construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented throughout the project to ensure localized soil disturbance does not cause sedimentation issues for any waterway.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No work would be conducted in wetland areas.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new sewer line connection stub would be underground, primarily underneath Taylor Way public road. No permanent structures would be installed above ground level. No substantial vegetation clearing changing the visual condition would be required.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar air quality impacts during project implementation are expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise from typical heavy equipment would be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: 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: 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: Effected landowners have already been notified by City of Tacoma regarding their larger sewer upgrade project. The new sewer stub out for BPA encompasses only two landowners; Port of Tacoma and BPA.

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

Signed: */s/ Chad Browning*
Chad Browning, EPR-Covington
Environmental Scientist

Date: May 24, 2021