

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Metering and SCADA updates for Wheatridge Solar and Battery Integration

Project No.: G0605

Project Manager: Charla Burke – TEPS-TPP-1

Location: Morrow County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to update its SCADA system at NextEra's Blueridge Substation and at BPA's Morrow Flat Substation and control centers, and would update settings on the existing metering and relay equipment at BPA substations and control centers. No new equipment would be added and no ground disturbance would occur. BPA intends to complete these actions to integrate the output of Wheatridge Solar's 80MW Wheatridge Solar and Battery Project into BPA's Balancing Authority Area at BPA's Morrow Flat 230kV Substation.

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.

Douglas F Corkran
Douglas F Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>September 27, 2021</u>
Katey C. Grange	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

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

All work would take place inside existing substations and control houses.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA Historian and Archeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed so there would be no impacts to soils and geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed so there would be no impacts to plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place inside existing substations and control houses. No wildlife or wildlife habitat would be affected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed so there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains or fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed so there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is proposed so there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No changes in land use would occur.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in the visual character of existing facilities would occur and no new facilities would be constructed.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with increased vehicle traffic.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Noise associated with construction traffic would be consistent with existing vehicle and operation noise at the sites.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No hazardous materials would be generated or used for this project.

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 work would take place inside existing substations and facilities, no landowner notification or 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: /s/ Douglas F Corkran September 27, 2021
Douglas F Corkran – ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist