

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Dixon Substation Backup Power Supply Installation; LURR #20180395

Project Manager: Dustin Smith – TERR-KALISPELL

Location: Dixon, Montana; BPA Kalispell District
Sanders County
T18N R21W Sec20

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 – Multiple Use of Power Line Rights-of-Way

Description of the Proposed Action: Mission Valley Power (MVP) is providing 7.2 kV back up power to BPA's Dixon Substation. MVP would place a wood pole, including guy anchors and bring the power overhead to that pole and then run the power underground to a meter just outside the substation. The proposed work would occur on BPA-owned land surrounding the Dixon Substation and within the substation fenceline. Equipment used to perform this work may include a combination of dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, and work trucks. All disturbed areas would be restored at the end of the project.

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, July 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/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer
Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Date: February 14, 2019

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

The proposed project would be conducted at Dixon Substation on BPA-owned property, located approximately 0.5 miles southeast of the town of Dixon, Montana in the BPA Kalispell District. The project area is located within the Flathead Indian Reservation. The project area is mostly flat with mostly grassy vegetation with some shrubs. The land use in the surrounding area is rural/agricultural.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A portion of the project area was surveyed by a BPA archaeologist in 2013 and reviewed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). No cultural resources were identified during the survey. Based on this survey and the fact that the majority of the work would be happening in previously disturbed area, the CSKT THPO concurred with BPA’s no adverse effect to historic properties determination on February 6, 2019, with the condition that a BPA archaeologist would be on site during ground-disturbing work.</p> <p>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; CSKT; CSKT THPO; 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.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of this project would involve installing a wood pole and associated anchors, and some trenching. The proposed work would not significantly impact geology and soils.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federal/state special status species in the project area.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work is proposed for this project and there are no floodplains present within the proposed work area. The project area is located approximately 1,000 feet west of the Jocko River. Best</p>		

management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off-site during ground-disturbing activities.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Installation of a wood pole structure and trench would not affect groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. No specially designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be a very minor change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the installation of a new wood pole and distribution line; however, there are existing BPA 115kV wood pole structures and MVP wood pole structures immediately adjacent to the project area with similar visual characteristics. The addition of a single tower would not create a significant change to visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some minor temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. 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, if necessary: NA

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary: NA

- 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, if necessary: NA

- 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, if necessary: NA

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All activities would take place on BPA-owned land within the Flathead Indian Reservation. Proposed project activities have been coordinated with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation.

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

Signed: /s/ Doug Corkran
Doug Corkran, ECT-4

Date: February 14, 2019