

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Equipment Ownership Transfer at Stateline Substation

Project Manager: Jay Largo—TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to transfer ownership of transformers and associated equipment at Columbia Rural Electric Association's (CREA) Stateline Substation. CREA would take ownership of BPA's equipment at CREA's 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.

/s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ David K. Kennedy
David K. Kennedy
Executive Manager, Environmental Planning and Analysis

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange Date: September 9, 2019
Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment: 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.

Proposed Action: Equipment Ownership Transfer at Stateline Substation

Project Site Description

The project location is at the Stateline Substation in Umatilla County, Oregon, located approximately three miles south of the Oregon-Washington border and eight miles west of the town of Milton-Freewater. The site is in Section 28, Township 6 North, Range 34 East. The surrounding area is a mixed use of agricultural production and windpower facilities.

An unnamed stream and riparian area are located 150-feet west of the substation. There are no wetlands within close proximity of the substation.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA Historian review has shown that the sale and transfer of the BPA equipment would not adversely impact the integrity of the Stateline Substation, and no ground disturbance would occur as a result of this undertaking. The Stateline Substation was designed and built by BPA in 1973, which falls within the period of significance, and was later sold to CREA. However, since only a metering house exists at the substation, the site does not meet the threshold for eligibility and therefore no Section 106 review is required.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed action would not involve construction or ground disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impact to geology or soils.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed action would not involve construction or ground disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impact to plants.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed action would not involve construction or ground disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impact to wildlife.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed action would not involve construction or ground disturbing activities; therefore, there would be on impact to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The proposed action would not involve construction or ground disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The proposed action would not involve construction or ground disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: There would be no change to land use at the site and there are no specially-designated areas in the vicinity.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality at the site.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: There would be no impacts to air quality.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: There would be no noise impacts.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: There would be no impacts to 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:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: No landowner notification or coordination would be necessary, since this is an equipment property transfer between BPA and CREA, the owners of the substation.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger, ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: September 9, 2019