

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Oregon Fish Screens Projects, Pump Screens

Project No.: 1993-066-00

Project Manager: Joshua Ashline

Location: Multiple Locations, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.8 Screened water intake and outflow structures

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to construct, fabricate, and install fish screens as per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) fish screen criteria. The projects would occur on private and public lands within the John Day and Umatilla subbasins. The ODFW Fish Biologists and Fish Screen and Passage Program Manager establish the schedule and priorities for placement of screening devices within the basins based on priorities set forth in the subbasin plans, Mid-Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan, Native Fish Conservation Policy, and the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Other considerations when establishing priorities are: absence or presence of fish, which fish species are present and their population status, if the fish screen would be new or a replacement, whether the existing fish screen meets current NMFS criteria, cooperation of landowners to obtain permission for access and timing of project, economic impact and cost-share availability for the project, and the frequency of use during the irrigation season and migration (based on past history). After priority projects are selected, either a pump screen or gravity screen would be installed.

New NMFS criteria pump screens would be attached to the irrigation pump intake line with couplings, adapters, and hose; which is modified or replaced and attached to the existing irrigation pump. For future reference, electronic or mechanical flow measuring devices would also be installed on pump diversions. These installations would not cause any ground disturbance.

Pump Screen and Flow Measuring Device proposed installs:

- Upper Mainstem John Day River Basin
- Lower Mainstem John Day River Basin
- North Fork of the John Day River Basin
- Middle Fork of the John Day River Basin
- South Fork of the John Day River Basin

- Umatilla River Basin

Funding the proposed activities fulfills commitments under the 2020 NMFS Columbia River System Biological Opinion (2020 NMFS CRS BiOp). These proposed activities also fulfill commitments specified in the 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia River System BiOp (2020 FWS CRS BiOp). These actions support ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the FCRPS on ESA-listed fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.).

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/ Catherine Clark

Catherine Clark
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting and Staffing, Inc.

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel May 12, 2022
Sarah T. Biegel 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.

Proposed Action: Oregon Fish Screens Projects, Pump Screens

Project Site Description

These projects would occur within irrigation ditches on public and private lands within the John Day and Umatilla subbasins.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Installation of pump screens would be occurring on existing pumps and there would be no ground disturbance to install screens; thus, BPA determined that there would be no potential to effect historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Installation of pump screens on existing structures. No new ground disturbance is being proposed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Installation of pump screens on existing structures using existing access points. No soil disturbance or disturbance of vegetation including Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary displacement of wildlife due to noise and human presence from implementation activities could occur. No long-term effect on wildlife or their habitat.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Actions would have no effect or be classified as low risk to species according to the current biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NMFS on the effects of Bonneville's Habitat Improvement Program. No ground disturbance.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to wetlands. No ground disturbance.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impact to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change to land use.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary changes to visual quality could occur in the immediate project areas due to equipment on the immediate project area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with increased vehicular traffic would occur during project activities.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary intermittent noise would occur during implementation.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known hazardous materials in the project areas.

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: Activities would be implemented within irrigation ditches on private and public lands. ODFW would work with land owners to install all pump screens and flow measuring devices on private land, and would work with land managers when on public land.

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

Signed: /s/ Catherine Clark May 12, 2022
Catherine Clark, ECF-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting and Staffing, Inc.