

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Bell Underground Storage Tank Repair

Project No.: 4847

Project Manager: Bien May – TF-Bell-1

Location: Spokane County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to repair existing underground storage tank drop tube, spill bucket, and two pipe caps. Small portions of concrete would be removed to replace spill bucket and drop tube.

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/ Adrienne Wojtasz

Adrienne Wojtasz

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

Date: August 12, 2022

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: Bell Underground Storage Tank Repair

Project Site Description

The project is confined to a concrete parking lot at BPA's Bell Maintenance Headquarters in Spokane, Washington. The facility is in Section 16, Township 26 North, Range 43 East. The surrounding area is a mix of underdeveloped land, with commercial and industrial development; notably adjacent to the former Kaiser aluminum plant.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project at Bell Substation will have no potential to cause effect. Although constructed in 1942, the site was previously evaluated as part of an intensive level survey by AECOM for BPA and determined to be not eligible for the NRHP. Concurrence was received from SHPO in 2018. BPA Historian review has shown that, as no ground disturbance would occur as a result of this undertaking and no built historic resources are present, the proposed work would not impact the integrity of historic substations.

Based on the information provided, BPA has determined, per 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), that this undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No soil disturbance would occur during spill bucket, drop tube, and cap replacement.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species. No impacts to State- or federally-sensitive species are anticipated. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted concrete parking lot.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no known occurrences of Federal/state special-status species within five miles of the project area. The site does not have high quality habitat. Construction activities may temporarily displace non-listed wildlife but there would be no long-term impacts to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish in the vicinity of the project location; therefore, there would be no impacts to these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands at, or near, the project location; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The site is above an Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) Region 10 Sole Source Aquifer known as the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The groundwater at the site is approximately 160 feet below surface level and the maximum depth of disturbance would be 3 feet.

Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact existing land uses.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The visual quality would not change at the site. The project area is a large electrical substation and maintenance facility, surrounded by undeveloped or industrialized land.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During project activities, all standard safety protocols would be followed. 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: The project area is on BPA-owned land, with no adjacent residences nearby that would warrant notification.

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

Signed: /s/ Adrienne Wojtasz Date: August 12, 2022
Adrienne Wojtasz
Physical Scientist (Environmental)