

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Grand Coulee Substation Grid Modernization - High Side Revenue Metering Additions

**PP&A No.:** 4293

**Project Manager:** Kelly Gardner – TEPS-TPP-1

**Location:** Grant County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 – Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to upgrade the existing equipment by installing high-side revenue metering in the Bureau of Recreation Grand Coulee 115 kilovolt (kV), 230 kV, and 500 kV substations. This project is necessary to accurately measure generation at the point it connects to the transmission grid in support of BPA's grid modernization efforts.

Work in the Grand Coulee 500 kV Switchyard would include removal of 18 bus pedestals, installation of 18 current transformers, and associated bus and grounding work. Work in the 500 kV control house would include installation of metering systems, racks, and communication equipment.

Work in the Grand Coulee 230 kV Switchyard would include removal of 15 pot head footings, installation of 15 high bus pedestals and current transformers, and associated bus and grounding work. Work in the 230 kV control house would include installation of metering equipment.

Work in the Grand Coulee 115 kV Switchyard would include installation of six current transformers and associated seismic connections, installation of seismic risers, and associated bus and grounding work. Work in the 115 kV control house would include installation of metering equipment.

No control house building modifications are proposed. All project activities would be conducted within the substation fence line. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project would include a combination of the following: dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, cranes, and work trucks. Temporary construction erosion control measures would be implemented during ground disturbing activities.

**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/ EmmaReinenmann

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 23, 2020

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:** Grand Coulee Substation Grid Modernization

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### Project Site Description

The project area is located within the fence line of the Bureau of Recreation Grand Coulee 115 kV, 230 kV, and 500 kV substations. The 115 kV and 230 kV substations are adjacent to one another, located on the western side of the Grand Coulee Dam, at an elevation of approximately 1,650 feet above sea level. The 500 kV substation yard is located approximately one mile west of the 115 kV and 230 kV substation yards at an elevation of approximately 2,400 feet above sea level. The project area consists of gravelled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, and control houses. The vegetation surrounding the substation is sparse grassland. The surrounding land use is recreational and undeveloped.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

<b>Environmental Resource Impacts</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</b>
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The 115 kV Switchyard has previously been determined not eligible as a historic property, the 230 kV Switchyard has previously been determined eligible as a historic property, and the 500 kV Switchyard been determined eligible as a historic property. The proposed project activities are within the general complex, repetitive, character of the basic type that do not adversely impact integrity; therefore BPA has determined that the project would have “No adverse effect” on cultural and historical resources.</p> <p>Consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, U.S. Bureau of Recreation, and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) was initiated on December 13, 2019. DAHP concurred with APE on December 16, 2019 and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation concurred with APE on December 26, 2019. DAHP concurred with BPA’s “No adverse effect” determination on February 18, 2020.</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. 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>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project includes ground-disturbing activity within the previously disturbed substation yard. The yard would be re-rocked at the conclusion of the project. Native soil and geology would not be disturbed.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/special status species are present in the project area. The substation yard is rocked, so no vegetation would be impacted during activities within the substation fence line.</p>		

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



Explanation: The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect beyond temporary noise disturbance to wildlife in the area.

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



Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project. Stormwater best management practices would also be followed during construction to prevent sediment from entering nearby waterways; therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on water bodies, floodplains, and fish.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the project area. The proposed project would have no effect on wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: 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**



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 no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have a small temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the substation and associated transmission lines would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity 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, 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

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The proposed work would be coordinated with the Bureau of Recreation during planning and implementation.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann  
Emma Reinemann  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: March 23, 2020