

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Cascade Locks Substation Sale

Project No.: P05745; OR 2023 095

Project Manager: Jay Largo, TCPV-TPP-4

Location: Hood River County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to sell the BPA Cascade Locks Substation to the City of Cascade Locks. The proposed activity would be to sell the BPA substation and the associated 1.53-acre fee-owned substation property to the City. The City of Cascade Locks would then operate the substation. BPA would retain transmission line and access road easements on the property.

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/ Jeremy Doschka

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

2/5/2024

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: Cascade Locks Substation Sale

Project Site Description

The Cascade Locks Substation is located in the Columbia River Gorge near the City of Cascade Locks, Hood River County, Oregon in Section 5, Township 2 North, Range 8 East. The substation is on a 1.53-acre parcel of land that is situated south of Interstate 84 and its associated frontage road, and just outside of U.S Forest Service land (Mt. Hood National Forest). The substation is adjacent to a maintained transmission line corridor (Bonneville PH – Hood River No. 1) and south of this line is the Mt. Hood National Forest. The area to the south is part of the Mt. Hood National Forest consisting of forested and mountainous topography. North of the substation is the Interstate 84 corridor and developed industrial areas. The Columbia River is approximately 0.5 mile north of the substation. Herman Creek is approximately 600 feet west of the substation. There are no wetlands within or immediately adjacent to the substation property.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with a determination of no historic properties affected on December 22, 2023 (BPA CR Project No.: OR 2023 095). Consulting parties included the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). No responses were received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as part of the substation sale; therefore, no impacts to geology or soils would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as part of the substation sale; therefore, no impacts to plants would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as part of the substation sale; therefore, no impacts to wildlife would occur.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as part of the substation sale; therefore, no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish would occur.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as part of the substation sale; therefore, no impacts to wetlands would occur.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur as part of the substation sale; therefore, no impacts to groundwater or aquifers would occur.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use is proposed. The substation is located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) in a designated Urban Area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in appearance to the substation would occur as part of the sale; therefore, no impacts to visual quality would occur.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance or other work involving motorized equipment would occur; therefore, no impacts to air quality would occur.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance or other work involving motorized equipment would occur; therefore, no noise impacts would occur.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA's Pollution Prevention & Abatement group reviewed the property and determined that there is no evidence to indicate that hazardous substance activity is present or took place on the property during BPA's ownership. There would be no impacts to human health and 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: BPA Realty is coordinating with BPA Transmission and the City of Cascade Locks during the process of the sale.

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

Signed: /s/ Jeremy Doschka
Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist

2/5/2024
Date