

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Glade-Tap Reconductor

**Project No.:** 5050

**Project Manager:** Raymond Cheng – TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** Franklin County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance; B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to re-conductor the Glade 115kV Tap serving Franklin County PUD (FCPUD) and Big Bend Electric Coop (BBEC) at Glade Substation located in Franklin County, WA as well as replace the disconnect structures within and outside the substation.

One hundred fifty-five feet of the Glade 115kV Tap would be reconducted, that would entail replacing the existing conductor and hardware. Pulling and tensioning sites approximately 80 feet by 100 feet would be needed to remove the existing and install the new conductor. In addition, the following activities would be required to complete this proposed action:

- Rebuild the structure for B-164 outside the substation and replace the disconnect switch
- Replace the 115kV tap disconnect switch inside Glade Substation
- Add concrete footing within the substation for new coupling capacitor voltage transformer (CCVT)
- Add cabinets for batteries, chargers and relays within substation

The proposed work would require the use of a bucket truck, digger derrick (boom truck), backhoe, pole truck, and pickup trucks for personnel and materials transportation.

The proposed action would occur within, and immediately adjacent to, BPA rights-of-way (ROWs) and access roads for the Glade Substation and Glade Tap conductor. BPA owns the property within the Glade substation fence line and has easement rights to operate and maintain the transmission lines, assets and access roads outside the substation and within the transmission line corridor.

All work would be conducted within the existing transmission line corridor, ROW, and substation. There is existing adequate landing space and staging areas to conduct the work. Existing access roads would be used to transport necessary equipment to the site. Excavation would be required for installation of the new footing within the substation. The work site would be regraded if necessary, and unrocked disturbed soils would be stabilized with a native erosion control seed mix and straw mulch as necessary.

**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/ Justin Carr*

Justin A. Carr

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Katey Grange*

Katey C. Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer      Date: July 29, 2024

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:** Glade Tap Reconductor

## **Project Site Description**

Vegetation in the action area is routinely managed to remove tall-growing tree species and avoid interaction with the conductor and possible grounding through contact with vegetation. No ESA fish-bearing or perennial waterways are located in the Action Area. There is an identified freshwater emergent wetland adjacent to a stream near the action area to the northwest. The proposed project area has switchyard rock within the substation and mixed gravel and grasses surrounding structure 1/1 proposed for rebuild. There is an existing gravel access road to structure 1/1 which is surrounded by a gravel landing. The surrounding land uses include mixed agriculture, agricultural industry, and sparse residential.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

**Explanation:** The majority of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) was surveyed in 2021 and 2023 and was previously utilized during construction activities for these projects between 2023 and 2024. No archaeological resources were identified within the APE during either of these survey efforts nor during background research. The Glade Substation was identified to be an eligible, historic resource; however, the proposed work would not impact the integrity of the resource. BPA determined that the project would have no adverse effect on cultural resources and sent consultation documentation to the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. No other consulting parties responded.

**Notes:**

- In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

**Explanation:** Localized soil disturbance would occur during excavation within substation for installation of new footing and rebuilding the structure outside of the substation. As necessary, erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented. Restoration efforts will be inspected prior to de-mobilization.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing access roads and landing areas would allow access to the proposed work areas and would provide very little disturbance to existing vegetation. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA obtained an official species list on February 12, 2024, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to analyze the proposed project's impacts to plant species protected under the ESA. There are no ESA listed species present in or near the proposed action area and no state listed or sensitive species present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary human presence and noise from heavy equipment may disturb local wildlife. However, disturbance would be temporary and limited to daylight hours and to the immediate project area. The surrounding land provides adequate escape for any wildlife disturbed by project activities. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA obtained an official species list on February 12, 2024, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to analyze the proposed project's impacts to wildlife species protected under the ESA. The proposed project would have no effects on federally listed species and no state listed species are present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project location is nearby a non-ESA fish bearing stream (Esquatzel Coulee). There is no excavation proposed outside the substation. There is a proposed footing to be installed within the substation that would require excavation where soils are stable and erosion minimal. Best management practices would be implemented to ensure sediment would not leave the work areas and enter the nearby waterbody. There is no potential for any in water work.

### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project location is adjacent to a freshwater emergent wetland associated with the non-ESA fish bearing stream. There is no excavation proposed outside the substation. There is a proposed footing to be installed within the substation that would require excavation where soils are stable and erosion minimal. Best management practices would be implemented to ensure sediment would not leave the work areas and enter the nearby wetland.

## 7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No excavation would occur at depths intersecting groundwater or aquifers.

## 8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in land use and there are no specially designated areas.

## 9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The existing visual quality would be retained.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have limited, very minimal impacts to air quality due to vehicle operation/heavy equipment operation and minimal, shallow excavation activities.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have limited, temporary impacts to noise related to vehicle and heavy equipment operation. However, construction activity would occur during daylight hours, when potential impact to people and wildlife would be minimal.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A safe, reliable high voltage transmission system is a human health and safety issue. All BPA and BPA contractor work supporting the project would proceed following established safety practices and guidelines.

### **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 transmission line maintenance foreman, access road engineers, environmental representatives, and realty representatives have discussed proposed project activities with the landowner and would continue to coordinate activities with the landowner through construction and into post-construction revegetation monitoring.

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

Signed: /s/ Justin Carr

Justin A. Carr

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: July 29, 2024