

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Maintenance Activities at ?lmtwaha and Umatilla Hatchery Facilities

Project No.: 2023-003-00

Project Manager: Andrew Traylor, EWU - 4

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.11 Fencing, B1.15 Support buildings.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund various maintenance activities at the ?lmtwaha Hatchery (formally Walla Walla Hatchery) and satellite facilities of the Umatilla Hatchery. All are existing facilities that receive funding from BPA for ongoing, routine operations and maintenance. Maintenance activities would be non-routine actions to maintain, repair, replace, or upgrade equipment at the existing facilities. The actions would target assets and components that have mission critical or essential functions. Some maintenance activities would include ground disturbance. All sites have had previous ground disturbance during original construction, including excavation, grading, and leveling. Maintenance activities would occur within the boundaries of previously-disturbed areas and would include:

- Pouring concrete pads as a base for equipment such as generators and above-ground fuel tanks. Actions would include site excavation (no more than 24 inches deep), leveling, form work and base preparation, laying rebar, and pouring concrete.
- Electrical updates including repairs, replacements, and upgrades to existing equipment such as generators (and their fuel tanks) and transformers. Activities may include new installation of breaker panels, overhead lighting, and power outlets to existing buildings or structures at the facilities. Trenches may need to be dug (no more than 24 inches deep) to place conduit and wires that would run from the power source to the facilities.
- Replacing or adding fencing including removal of existing posts and fencing and installation of new posts and fencing. Any new holes needed for fence posts would be drilled down to a 36-inch depth using an auger. Concrete would be poured in holes to secure posts.
- Adding insulation to walls of facility buildings. No ground disturbance would be required.
- Plumbing repairs to hatchery tanks inside facilities. Work would include cutting into the concrete floor to access existing plumbing, replacing or repairing plumbing materials to ensure adequate drainage for the tank, and pouring concrete to replace what was cut out. No ground disturbance would be required.
- Constructing platforms to access hatchery tanks inside facilities. Platforms would be on castors so they could be moved between tanks. Construction would not require any modification to the facility. No ground disturbance would be required.

These actions would occur at existing facilities (facility details noted in the table below) to support current levels of fish production and would not extend the original intended life of any of the facilities. There would be no increase in the water supply used or in the number of fish reared than has been previously authorized.

Facility	Operator	Landowner	Locale	Proposed Actions
?Imtwaha Hatchery	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	BPA	Milton-Freewater, OR	Building insulation, plumbing repairs, access platforms
Umatilla Hatchery – satellite facilities	CTUIR	BPA, USACE, Oregon Water Resources, private	Pendleton, OR	Electrical
Umatilla Hatchery – satellite facilities	Westland Irrigation District	private	Echo, OR	Electrical, concrete pad, fencing

These actions would support ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on 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.

Jacquelyn Schei
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Sarah T. Biegel FOR Katey C. Grange
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: Maintenance Activities at ?Imtwaha and Umatilla Hatchery Facilities

Project Site Description

Project sites include existing developed hatchery and satellite facilities and their grounds, including pump houses, rearing tanks or raceways, residences, office buildings, storage buildings, and acclimation ponds. All facilities are in Umatilla County, Oregon.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Facilities are not old enough (less than 50 years old) to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Proposed actions that would have no ground disturbance were determined by BPA to be a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present (OR 2024 200). For those actions that would require ground disturbance, BPA initiated two consultations to address proposed work at different facilities. Details and determinations are listed below:

Umatilla Hatchery – Westland-operated satellite facilities (OR 2024 189):

Consulting Parties: CTUIR, Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), and Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

BPA Determination: No Historic Properties Affected, with stipulations (August 5, 2024)

Responses: NPT commented they feel comfortable with CTUIR making the comments for this project (August 6, 2024). SHPO concurred with BPA's delineation of the APE and proposed project activities (August 27, 2024). No other responses received. Comment period ended September 4, 2024.

Umatilla Hatchery – CTUIR-operated satellite facilities (OR 2024 201):

Consulting Parties: CTUIR and SHPO

BPA Determination: No Historic Properties Affected, with stipulations (August 7, 2024)

Responses: SHPO confirmed receipt of submission (August 7, 2024). No other responses received. Comment period ended September 6, 2024.

Notes:

- All ground-disturbing activity would be monitored by a professional archaeologist to produce a report with the findings.
- In the unlikely event that cultural material is 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: Minor and temporary ground disturbances would occur. Equipment for ground excavation would be chosen to minimize the amount of ground disturbance. A walk-behind trencher would be used to dig trenches, a small excavator or hand tools would be used to dig areas for concrete pads, and an auger would be used to drill holes for fence posts. The sites have all been previously disturbed during original construction and the proposed actions would not dig beyond the original disturbance.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The activities would occur within existing developed areas that are not vegetated. No ESA-listed or state-sensitive plant species would be present within the project sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in existing, developed facilities. There would be no effect to wildlife as the proposed activities would not introduce noticeable human activity and noise compared to existing human activity and noise associated with existing facility operations.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No in-river/channel work would occur associated with these maintenance actions. Repairs to raceways or holding ponds would occur when hatchery fish are not on station. There would be no impact on water bodies, floodplains and fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur within existing developed facilities. There would be no impact to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater are proposed. The proposed project would have no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The underlying land use (aquaculture) would not change and no impact to specially-designated areas would occur as a result of this project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in the visual character of the facilities would occur and the work would involve predominately replacement of parts or equipment in-kind, or addition of a single component to existing infrastructure.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There may be minor and temporary amounts of exhaust produced by construction equipment. The emissions would be of short duration and consistent in amount and duration with routine vehicle use currently at the facility. There would be no long-term effects to air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Noise is anticipated during construction activities. The noise would be of short duration and consistent in volume or duration with operational activities at the facility. This noise would be temporary and cause no long-term impacts.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All personnel would use best management practices to protect worker health and safety. Equipment may be removed or replaced that contains hazardous materials; these materials would be disposed of off-site according to all local, state, and federal regulations. No impacts to human health and safety are expected as a result of project activities.

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: Project activities would be implemented by the facility operator. At facilities where the land is owned by a different entity than the operator, land use or other special use agreements exist that define how the work would be coordinated with the landowner and the manner in which the work would be completed.

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

Signed:

Jacquelyn Schei
Environmental Protection Specialist