

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Nippon Biomass Generation Project – Large Generator Interconnection Request No. G0504

**Project Manager:** Chad Caldwell

**Location:** Port Angeles, Clallam County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to approve Large Generator Interconnection Request No. G0504, submitted by Nippon Paper Industries USA Co., Ltd. (Nippon), which increases the generating capacity of their biomass facility by 5 MW. The biomass facility was interconnected into BPA's transmission system through the Small Generator Interconnection (SGI) process in December of 2013 and has been operating at 20 MW. Nippon's Request for additional capacity does not require any new facilities to enable this interconnection and would cause no discernable impact to BPA's transmission system.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Adecco Engineering & Technical

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 20, 2015

Attachment: 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.

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### Project Site Description

The proposed action would occur at BPA's Port Angeles Substation. No ground disturbance or facility modification would be required.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance or building modifications would be required.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance or associated impacts to soils would be required.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance or associated impacts to plants would be required.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance or associated disturbance to wildlife would be required.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance or associated disturbance to water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be required.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or associated disturbance to wetlands would be required.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or associated disturbance to groundwater resources would be required.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation: Project would be located within an existing substation.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or building modifications that would affect visual quality would be required.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or building modifications that would affect air quality would be required.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or building modifications that would produce noise would be required.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or building modifications that would impact human health and safety would be required.

### **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:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Not applicable

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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/ Elizabeth Siping  
Elizabeth Siping, KEC-4

Date: April 21, 2015