

# memorandum

DATE: June 3, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Michael Gilchrist  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** LaPine Substation Shunt Reactor Addition

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

**Location:** LaPine, Deschutes County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to add equipment at its LaPine Substation in Deschutes County, Oregon to improve regional transmission voltage stability and increase transmission network efficiency. The site is located on land managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

BPA would install a 230-kilovolt (kV) shunt reactor bank, bus bar and associated electrical work in the northeast corner of the substation tract. The substation fenceline and groundmat would be expanded approximately 50 feet and rocked, increasing the yard by approximately 10,000 square feet. Communication and monitoring equipment would be added within the control house to support the new equipment. All work would take place within BPA's right-of-way in an area previously cleared of vegetation and graveled for use as an access road.

**Findings:**

The U.S. Forest Service – Deschutes National Forest- Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District has been consulted with regarding the proposed project. The Forest Service will amend an existing permit to include the proposed equipment additions, referencing a Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion prepared in November 2011 that authorized site development within the current permitted boundaries of the substation.

Based on prior disturbance from the substation construction as well as recent surveys that included the Area of Potential Effect, BPA determined no additional identification efforts would be needed and that no historic properties would be affected as a result of the proposed project. BPA consulted with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Klamath Tribes, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Burns-Paiute Tribe of the Burns-Paiute Indian Colony. BPA received concurrence from SHPO on June 3, 2013. No response was received from any of the consulted tribes.

BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

*/s/ Carolyn Sharp*  
Carolyn Sharp  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce*  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 3, 2013

Attachment:  
*Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions*

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: LaPine Substation Shunt Reactor Addition

Work Order #: 00310351

This project does **not** have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources SHPO concurrence on No Adverse Effect received 6/03/13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

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