

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Aberdeen Substation (Grays Harbor PUD) tree clearing

Project Manager: Steve Duncan TERS-3

Location: Grays Harbor County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3: Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to remove approximately 0.5 acres of tall trees from an alder stand on BPA property located between BPA's Aberdeen Substation and Grays Harbor PUD's control facility. Grays Harbor PUD has requested that BPA remove the trees because they have grown into the PUD's microwave beam path and interfere with the utility's communication.

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/ Joseph Sharpe for

Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia

Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 24, 2015

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.

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Project Site Description

The subject project area is located in Grays Harbor County, Washington, in the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Olympia Maintenance District. The project is located on BPA (Federal) owned property and is part of the industrial complex that includes BPA's Aberdeen Substation and Grays Harbor PUD electrical facilities.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties. The proposed action is considered to be routine vegetation management necessary to preserve existing infrastructure. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work will cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) will be contacted.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Storm water BMPs will be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. Although tall trees will be cut, the understory vegetation will be left intact.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Small stand of alders to be cleared. No species with special-status are known to occur at the site.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A no effect determination for ESA species and critical habitats was completed for the project. No T&E species or Critical habitat will be affected by the project.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The site does not contain any water bodies or nearby connections to any waterbodies, including any fish bearing streams.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present in the project area.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project does not involve any drilling or deep excavations. All spills will be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The property is already part of industrial area used as an electrical transmission facility and does not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project is located on BPA fee owned property and is located away from any public roads.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance will be limited to general construction equipment activities and be for a short duration.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Completion of this project with increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project will be confined to BPA fee owned property within the Aberdeen substation complex.

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

Signed: /s/ Joseph Sharpe for
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: June 24, 2015