

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 28, 2016

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: EC-4

SUBJECT: Categorical Exclusion Determination – Surprise Lake Substation Sale of Land Rights and Equipment

TO: Joan Kendall, TERR-3

Attached to this memorandum is BPA's CX Determination for the Surprise Lake Substation Sale of Land Rights and Equipment. Also included is the CX checklist that supports this determination.

Please be aware that if project changes are required that are not analyzed as part of the CX, you need to immediately contact me, the EC environmental lead, to determine if additional environmental review is required.

/s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Environmental Protection Specialist

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Surprise Lake Substation Sale of Land Rights and Equipment

**Project Manager:** Joan Kendall, TERR-3

**Location:** Pierce County, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 B1.24 Property Transfers**

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell its Surprise Lake Substation, including land rights, to the City of Milton. The sale of the substation would satisfy the provisions of BPA's 1996 Policy for Sale or Lease of Delivery Facilities, which gives BPA customers the right, upon request, to purchase or lease substations that are used to deliver power to the requesting customer or customers. BPA would sell nearly all substation assets, including but not limited to the footings, support structures, bus work, jumpers, transformers, disconnect switches, substation control equipment, fencing, surface rock, and appurtenances. BPA would retain the metering equipment.

The sale of the facility to the City of Milton would not change the use of the substation and would not have the potential to release substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment.

**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

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 28, 2016

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

becc:

J. Kendall – TERR-3

G. Lynard – ECT-4

E. Siping – ECT-4

P. Smith – EPR-4

H. Adams – L-7

Official File – EC (EQ-15)

ESiping:eas:4145:03/18/2016

<http://portal.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/CX%20Surprise%20Lake.docx>

## 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:** Surprise Lake Substation Sale of Land Rights and Equipment

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### Project Site Description

Surprise Lake Substation is located in Pierce County, Washington. The substation is on 0.40 acres of mostly developed land. The site is on Fife Way in Tacoma, Washington.

### 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA determined that the sale of land rights and equipment would have no adverse effect on historic properties. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with the no adverse effect determination on February 24, 2016. The following tribes were notified of the proposed project and did not respond: the Nisqually Tribe and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to plants would occur. No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur at the substation.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No new disturbance to wildlife would occur.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies present.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No impact to groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: No impact to land use.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No impact to visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No impact to air quality.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No impact to noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact.

### **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: No notification - BPA is the current landowner.

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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 – ECT-4

Date: March 28, 2016