Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Covington Substation Sanitary Sewer Replacement

Project No.: 1368

Project Manager: Janice Grounds – TEP-CSB-2

Location: King County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.26 Small water treatment facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to decommission existing septic tanks and drainfields at Covington Substation. BPA would replace this septic system with a new sanitary sewer system. The new sewer system would accommodate all sewage from existing facilities at Covington Substation and future maintenance headquarters facilities.

About 2,440 feet of new 2-inch sewer line would be installed by directional bore about 3 to 6 feet under paved, graveled, or lawn areas. Entry and exit point pits would be needed about every 400 feet. Five pumps, measuring about 3 x 3 feet at each building would be sunk about 10 feet underground and connected to existing sewage pipes that presently exit each building. An existing electrical line from each building would be pulled to connect to each pump. As part of decommissioning, septic system effluents would be pumped and each tank would be filled with sand. BPA would obtain an on-site system permit for the sanitary sewer connection from Soos Creek Water and Sewer District. All work would be conducted on BPA property.

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/ Nancy A Wittpenn_____
Nancy A Wittpenn
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

_/s/ Stacy L. Mason_____ Date:_ September 25, 2017_____
Stacy L. Mason
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.

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Project Site Description

The project site is within BPA's Covington Substation in Covington, Washington. The terrain is relatively flat and is either paved, graveled, or lawn where the sewer lines are proposed. The surrounding area is a mix of residential housing, retail, and light industrial use. The proposed sewer lines are located outside of the energized yard.

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**	☑	☐
Explanation: Previous cultural resource studies have been conducted within the substation and along Covington Way, and no cultural material has been identified in any subsurface tests. The proposed project is located within previously disturbed ground that has been leveled and trenched with imported fill deposits, and much of it is currently paved. While historic buildings do exist at Covington Substation, none of these buildings would be disturbed.		
2. **Geology and Soils**	☑	☐
Explanation: The borelines and pits would be within previously disturbed ground that has been leveled and trenched with imported fill deposits. The surface is paved, graveled, or lawn.		
3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)	☑	☐
Explanation: The borelines and pits would be within previously disturbed ground that has been leveled and trenched with imported fill deposits. The surface is paved, graveled, or lawn. No plants exist in these areas.		
4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	☑	☐
Explanation: The borelines and pits would be within previously disturbed ground that has been leveled and trenched with imported fill deposits. The surface is paved, graveled, or lawn. No wildlife exists in these areas. Eagles or migratory birds could be present in the substation area but any noise generated from the project would not be out of character with the light industrial uses at the substation and in the surrounding area.		
5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish** (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	☑	☐
Explanation: Although a swale (not classified as a stream or wetland) to collect surface water run-off does exist in the southeast part of the substation, no natural water bodies exist within the substation and more specifically, in the path of the borlines or pits. Jenkins Creek, which parallels Covington Substation along the southern		

property line, flows between the substation property and a Burlington Northern Railroad line. Although the creek contains spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon, the closest boreline would be over 130 feet away from the creek and run parallel to the direction of the creek for about 380 feet before turning north. Best management practices would be used while boring and no sediment would move off-site.

6. **Wetlands** ☑ ☐

Explanation: The borelines and pits would be within previously disturbed ground that has been leveled and trenched with imported fill deposits. The surface is paved, graveled, or lawn. No wetlands exist within the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers** ☑ ☐

Explanation: The borelines and pits would not be deep enough to disturb groundwater or aquifers in the area.

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

Explanation: All work would occur on BPA fee-owned land within the property fenceline on land zoned Industrial and surrounded by land zoned General Commercial, Mixed Commercial, and Mixed Housing/Office. There are no specially designated areas or recreational areas in the vicinity and no impacts would occur to these resources.

9. **Visual Quality** ☑ ☐

Explanation: All work would occur on substation property surrounded by mixed industrial, commercial, and residential/office use. Construction activity would not be out of character with the surrounding area. Once the sewer system is installed, all facilities would be below ground.

10. **Air Quality** ☑ ☐

Explanation: An increase in emissions from vehicles and boring equipment would be temporary and localized to the substation property. Dust could be created during boring but this would also be temporary and localized.

11. **Noise** ☑ ☐

Explanation: Temporary noise would occur during construction but would not be out of character with the surrounding ambient noise from adjacent Covington Way, a heavily travelled thruway and other adjacent industrial uses.

12. **Human Health and Safety** ☑ ☐

Explanation: Once replaced, existing septic tanks would be pumped according to City of Covington and Soos Creek water and sewer district sanitary sewer requirements. Construction crews would follow all safety requirements for working around energized transmission lines and outside of but close to an energized substation yard.

During the 1990's Covington Substation was the subject of a major cleanup effort for PCB contamination in the soils and groundwater. Since this time, the substation has posed no threat to human health or the environment. Along those lines, no hazardous materials or waste would be generated from the project and no effects to human health and safety would occur.

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: All work is proposed to be on BPA fee-owned property at Covington Substation. BPA has notified the adjacent landowners Rainier Wood Recyclers and City of Covington.

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

Signed: */s/ Nancy A Wittpenn* Date: *September 25, 2017*

Nancy A Wittpenn ECT-4