

**Record of Categorical Exclusion
for
Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E's)
Pittsburg Power Plant Substation Modular Protection Automation Control Project**

Description of Categorically Excluded Action

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) Title XVII Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment (EIR 1706) Program was established pursuant to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which amended Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to include the EIR Program. The EIR Program provides loan guarantees for projects that either: (1) retool, repower, repurpose, or replace energy infrastructure that has ceased operations; provided that if the project involves electricity generation through the use of fossil fuels, it is required to have controls or technologies to avoid, reduce, utilize, or sequester air pollutants and anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases; or (2) projects that enable operating energy infrastructure to avoid, reduce, utilize, or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases.

The DOE Loan Programs Office (LPO) is considering whether to issue a loan guarantee of a funding facility to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) pursuant to its authority under the EIR 1706 Program. In its application, PG&E has identified the Pittsburg Power Plant Substation Modular Protection Automation Control (MPAC) Project (Project) in Pittsburg, California, for inclusion in the funding facility that is the subject of DOE's loan guarantee (the Proposed Action). PG&E may request inclusion of multiple individual projects with independent utility in the funding facility that is the subject of the DOE loan guarantee; accordingly, DOE will complete an environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for these projects prior to their inclusion in the funding facility that is the subject of DOE's loan guarantee.

Project Description

The Project entails substation construction and modification activities within the existing fence line at PG&E's Pittsburg Power Plant Substation (Substation), which is located adjacent to the permanently closed Pittsburg Power Plant in the City of Pittsburg, Contra Costa County, California. Approximately 38-acres, PG&E's 115/230 kilovolt (kV) Substation is located on a fee-owned parcel within a 267-acre area zoned as General Industrial.

Key components of the Project include:

- Excavation and trenching within previously disturbed and graveled areas inside the fence line to support installation of control enclosure foundations and associated electric utility connections;
- Installation of two prefabricated 230 kV MPAC enclosures, two 115 kV MPAC enclosures, and one 115 kV battery enclosure on concrete foundations;
- Replacement of transformers, Bus switches, and other associated equipment on existing support structures;
- Removal of old conduits, vaults, wiring, relays, control equipment, and switchboards that are unused; and
- Reconfiguration of equipment installed in racks and panels within existing facilities at nearby PG&E substations (i.e., remote end substation work) to support the new protection and automation equipment installed at the Pittsburg Power Plant Substation.

All work will be performed on previously disturbed land within existing PG&E facilities. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, LPO's review of the Project found that there would be no effect to listed species or critical habitat. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, LPO's review of the Project found that it is not an undertaking with potential to cause effects on historic properties.

Number and Title of Categorical Exclusion(s)

The Proposed Action is consistent with and covered by DOE categorical exclusions in 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1021, Appendix B4, Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Electrical Power and Transmission. The Proposed Action is covered by DOE Categorical Exclusion B4.11.

B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Construction or modification of electric power substations or interconnection facilities (including, but not limited to, switching stations and support facilities).

Regulatory Requirements defined in 10 CFR § 1021.410(b)

The Proposed Action and related Project activities described above were subjected to an environmental due diligence review by DOE LPO staff to ensure they are consistent with the specific category of actions (categorical exclusion) contained in Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 1021 and the conditions for applying categorical exclusions specified in Section 410 of Part 1021. To ensure the requirements of Appendix B were met, LPO staff reviewed numerous project-related documents obtained in September 2024 and participated in several conference calls with PG&E staff to ensure a complete understanding of the activities associated with the Project.

The environmental due diligence review determined that there is no controversy regarding the potential environmental impacts of the Project, and that the actions associated with the loan guarantee would not adversely affect any physical, biological, or socio-cultural resources associated with the deployment of the project. The environmental due diligence review determined the Proposed Action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

The Comment section below is provided for any necessary clarifications concerning the findings listed above. Signature by PG&E's designated representative in the Corporate Validation section is an indication of PG&E's concurrence with the findings and determinations presented above.

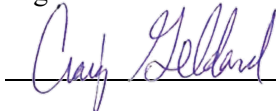
Comment(s)

Corporate Validation

Name and Title (Print):

Craig Geldard, Sr. Manager, Environmental Management

Signature and Date:



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Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the actions associated with the proposed EIR Program (EIR 1706) loan guarantee described above, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as prescribed in DOE Policy Directive 451.1), I have determined that the actions involve no extraordinary circumstances and fit within the specified category of actions in Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 1021 described above, and are hereby categorically excluded from further review under NEPA (42 United States Code 4321, as amended).

DOE will complete a review of any future projects in accordance with NEPA prior to their inclusion in the funding facility that is the subject of the DOE loan guarantee.

Signature and Date

Anna Eskridge, Ph.D.
NEPA Compliance Officer
Loan Programs Office