

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Two Mile Road Substation: Replace Perimeter Fence and Gate Installations

PP&A No.: 5041

Project Manager: Micaiah Watkins, TEPF-CSB-2

Location: Coos County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.11 Fencing

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the existing perimeter fence in-kind at Two Mile Road Substation. The project would realign about 125 feet of the southern portion of the fence, moving it out about 20 feet, enclosing the existing control house, to improve physical security. About 15 new footings would be excavated and installed in this area. BPA also proposes rebuilding a 20-foot-wide manual swing gate and the personnel gate in-kind. An old vehicle gate would be removed and a new gate would be installed about 75 feet from the current location to prevent unauthorized access to the BPA Right-of-Way (ROW). Work would be performed at the Two Mile Road Substation, located in Coos County Oregon.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct improvements, additions, and replacements to its transmission system that are necessary to maintain electrical stability and reliability, as well as to provide service to BPA's customers (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838b(b-d)).

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, Jul. 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.¹

/s/ Steven Selser
Steven D. Selser
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange
Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officers Date: February 21, 2025

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

¹ BPA is aware of the November 12, 2024, decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. Federal Aviation Administration*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, BPA has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 Code Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 1500– 1508, in addition to the US Department of Energy’s NEPA implementing procedures at 10 C.F.R. Part § 1021, to meet the agency’s obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*

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: Two Mile Road Substation: Replace Perimeter Fence and Gate Installations

Project Site Description

The project would be located at the Two Mile Road Substation in Coos County, Oregon. The current fence line is approximately 650 linear feet. The land is on BPA owned property and is currently cleared of vegetation and covered with gravel and substation yard rock. The new gate installation would occur on a gravel road adjacent to the perimeter fence. The area where the fence realignment would occur is on previously leveled land and is surfaced with gravel.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, and the Coquille Indian Tribe on August 22, 2024. Oregon SHPO and the Coquille Indian Tribe provided concurrence with the Area of Potential Effect (APE) via emails dated August 26, 2024. BPA sent a no effect to historic properties determination on December 16, 2024, and OR SHPO concurred on January 16, 2025. No additional response was received within 30 days.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal ground disturbance would occur in the areas where new fence poles and gate would be installed. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized to ensure sediment and other contaminants do not leave the work area.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal listed or State special-status species or habitat is located at the project site. All work areas would be located in previously-graveled areas with no vegetation present.

4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area does not include habitat for any Federal or State special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area. Project activities would be limited to within 20 feet of the fence line of the already impacted energized substation

and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would not be permanently affected.

5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized to ensure sediment and other contaminants do not enter bodies of water; therefore, water bodies, floodplains, and fish would not be affected by the proposed project activities.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands within or near the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project excavation would not be to a depth to intersect groundwater and the project would adhere to appropriate best management practices to prevent ground water contamination.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No specially-designated areas were identified within the project area. Land use would not change as a result of project activities.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal impacts to visual quality as the fence would be replaced in-kind with a chain-link fence, and the new alignment is near the current footprint. The new gate would not significantly change visual quality as there is currently a gate onsite, the new gate would be more sturdy and in a slightly different location.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a small, temporary impact on air quality from vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operation noise of the emergency generator would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Action would be performed on BPA owned land; no additional notification is required.

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

Signed: /s/ Steve Selser

Date: February 21, 2025

Steven D. Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)