

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Workplace Safety Enhancements

Project Manager: Multiple

Location: Multiple sites in BPA service territory in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B2.1 Workplace enhancements

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install or improve handrails, doors, and lighting primarily in the stair areas of several BPA facilities in 2017-2018 to enhance workplace habitability and safety conditions. Initial improvements would occur at BPA sites at Alfalfa, Ashe, Benton, Hanford, Midway, and Wautoma. Similar improvements would then occur at other BPA sites, including, but not limited to: Alston, Alvey, Big Eddy, Chemawa, Chief Joseph, Covington, Lane, Longview, Maple Valley, Potholes, Ross Complex, Snohomish, Taft, Troutdale, and Valhalla.

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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 24, 2017

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.

Proposed Action: Workplace Safety Enhancements

Project Site Description

BPA would install or improve handrails, doors, and lighting in the stair areas of several BPA facilities in 2017 and 2018 to improve safety conditions. Interior sites are typically concrete and exterior sites are hardscaped or gravel substation areas. The sites would involve existing constructed facilities and would not involve new building construction or construction in any natural areas.

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> BPA historian reviewed proposed activities and determined that these types of activities would not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to geology or soil.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to plants.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to wildlife.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to water bodies, floodplains, and fish.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to wetlands.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to groundwater and aquifers.

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



Explanation: Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without impacts to land use and specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without expected impacts to visual quality. Lighting improvements in stair areas may have some improvements on visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without expected lasting impacts to air quality. Installation and replacement of hand-rails and lighting upgrades could involve drilling and some temporary disturbance of existing paint and creation of paint dust to be mitigated by installers.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Projects to improve stair areas would occur at existing facilities without expected lasting impacts to noise conditions. Installation and replacement of hand-rails and lighting upgrades could involve drilling and some temporary noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Overall human health and safety would be improved by stair upgrades for safety purposes.

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: Releases of paint dust to be controlled during installation.

- 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: Releases of paint dust to be controlled during installation.

- 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 sites would be on BPA-owned facilities. Neighboring landowners would not be impacted by the stair improvements at BPA buildings. No significant increase in vehicular traffic would be expected.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 24, 2017