

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Celilo Maintenance Headquarters Roof Drainage Piping System Replacement

**Project No.:** P04249

**Project Manager:** Thornton D. Smith, TEPF-CSB-2

**Location:** Wasco County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace and/or reroute portions of the roof drainage piping system at BPA's Celilo Maintenance Headquarters near The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon (Township 1 North, Range 14 East, Section 6). The aging system of pipes, which carries rainwater from drains on the roof, through the building, and out to the larger facility stormwater management system, has been repeatedly patched and is failing. Therefore, the proposed action to replace and/or reroute drain pipes is required to bypass failing portions of the system and thereby avoid future failures and subsequent flooding, equipment damage, and safety hazards.

Most of the work would occur in the southern portion of the building (i.e., the southern valve halls, clean room, and southern visitors gallery and the mechanical room and southern conference room on the second floor). No major interior building modifications would be required to install the new piping. The majority of the existing drainage piping system would be abandoned in place; although BPA could remove some portions, if required. All demolished material would be disposed of off-site in accordance with local, state, and Federal regulations. BPA could also complete additional repair work (e.g., adjacent systems, drywall, ceiling tiles, etc.) as necessary if damage occurs during demolition and/or construction.

Upon exiting the building, the new pipe(s) would tie into the existing facility stormwater management system, which would require excavating an area approximately 6 feet by 10 feet by 5 feet deep. All proposed ground disturbance would occur east of the building within the previously-disturbed, non-native fill material that constitutes the substation yard.

**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.

/s/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol P. Leiter

Carol P. Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel                      January 31, 2022

Sarah T. Biegel      Date

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.

**Proposed Action:** Celilo Maintenance Headquarters Roof Drainage Piping System Replacement

## **Project Site Description**

The project site is located on Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) fee-owned property at BPA's Celilo Maintenance Headquarters near The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon (Township 1 North, Range 14 East, Section 6). All proposed actions would occur inside the existing Maintenance Headquarters building or outside within the substation yard, which is previously disturbed, covered in gravel, and maintained clear of vegetation. The primary native soil type underlying the substation yard is the Walla Walla soil series, which is not hydric. No wetlands or water bodies are located within 1,000 feet of the site. Outside of the Maintenance Headquarters and substation, the surrounding area is primarily maintained transmission line right-of-way (ROW) consisting of grasses and shrubs with some agricultural areas farther beyond. All work areas are located within a designated Urban Area of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA).

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Celilo Converter Station has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. However, the proposed undertaking would not alter the integrity or eligibility of the property. Similarly, the proposed undertaking does not have the potential to affect archaeological resources, as all ground-disturbing activities would occur within the previously-disturbed compacted gravel fill that constitutes the substation yard. Therefore, the proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All ground disturbance would occur within previously-disturbed gravel fill that constitutes the substation yard. Excavated material would be stored temporarily onsite and then used for backfill. Standard construction best management practices (BMPs) would prevent erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All ground disturbance would occur within the substation yard, which is maintained clear of vegetation. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary disruption of normal wildlife behavior could occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. However, current ambient noise and disturbances are high in the area due to routine maintenance and operations at the substation. As such, wildlife species that could be present in the area would likely already be habituated to human activity. There are no known occurrences of any special-status wildlife species, and no suitable species habitat is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action includes installation of stormwater management infrastructure, which would be built in accordance with all applicable local, state, and Federal regulations. No water bodies, floodplains, or fish-bearing streams are present within or near the project site. Standard construction BMPs would prevent indirect impacts to off-site water bodies, floodplains, and fish. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on fish species or habitats.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present within or near the project site. Standard construction BMPs would prevent indirect impacts to off-site wetlands. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not require the use of hazardous materials that could impact groundwater and aquifers. No new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is located entirely within a designated Urban Area of the CRGNSA. Therefore, the project would be exempt from compliance with CRGNSA requirements, including those contained in the CRGNSA Management Plan. No consistency review by the U.S. Forest Service would be required. The proposed action would be consistent with current land use.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No outdoor or above-ground structures are proposed, and disturbed areas in the substation yard would be returned to original conditions. There would be no change in visual quality following completion of the proposed action.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction activities would result in a minor and temporary increase in dust and emissions in the local area. There would be no long-term change in air quality following completion of the proposed action.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction activities could temporarily and intermittently produce noise at levels greater than current ambient conditions. Noise impacts would be temporary and intermittent and would only occur during daylight hours (approximately 7 AM to 7 PM). There would be no long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the project.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Standard construction BMPs would minimize risk to human health and safety. Hazardous materials, if found, would be disposed of off-site according to all local, state, and Federal regulations. Therefore, the proposed action would not be expected to impact human health and 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: The proposed action would occur entirely on BPA fee-owned property and would not impact adjacent properties. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: <u>/s/ W. Walker Stinnette</u>	<u>January 31, 2022</u>
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4	Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist	
Flux Resources, LLC	