Categorical Exclusion Determination
Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Bell Substation equipment replacements

PP&A No.: 3059

Project Manager: Emmanuel Jaramillo

Location: Bell Substation

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 – Additions and modifications

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to remove, replace, and install several pieces of electrical equipment at BPA’s Bell Substation. The project is needed to replace or upgrade outdated equipment to ensure system reliability and operational needs. In addition, the project includes the removal and retirement of PCB containing equipment in order to reduce BPA’s level of environmental compliance liability risks. The proposed project includes:

- Replacement of rod gaps with surge arrestors
- Removal and replacement of equipment footings
- Removal and replacement of disconnects, breakers, bus work, PTs, and CTs.

All proposed work is located within the developed electrical yard at Bell Substation.

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/ Philip W. Smith
Philip W. Smith
Manager-Technical & Regional Services, KEPR-4
Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason  
Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 8, 2014

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:** Bell Substation equipment replacements

## Project Site Description

Bell Substation is part of BPA’s Bell Complex which is located entirely on property owned by BPA. In addition to the substation, the Complex serves as a regional headquarters and maintenance and support services hub. The area immediate surrounding the Complex is primarily open grass land with sparse ponderosa pine to the SE. The property directly across East Hawthorne street, on the north side of the Bell Complex, is occupied by a closed Aluminum smelter.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resource Impacts</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Historic and Cultural Resources</strong></td>
<td>[✓]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> All work to be performed in developed substation yard within area of previous disturbance.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Geology and Soils</strong></td>
<td>[✓]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> All work to be performed within the developed substation yard. Erosion and sediment controls would be employed as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Completion of a PAC required to determine proper disposal of materials such as excess soil and concrete.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Plants</strong> (including federal/state special-status species)</td>
<td>[✓]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> None present-existing graveled substation yard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Wildlife</strong> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</td>
<td>[✓]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> Work is within graveled developed substation yard. No habitat nearby.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</strong> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</td>
<td>[✓]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> None present</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **Wetlands**

   | ✓ | ☐ |

   **Explanation:** None present

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

   | ✓ | ☐ |

   **Explanation:** The substation is located within the EPA designated boundary of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be less than 10-ft; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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

   | ✓ | ☐ |

   **Explanation:** No change in land use.

9. **Visual Quality**

   | ✓ | ☐ |

   **Explanation:** Project replaces substation equipment within existing substation yard. No distinct change in the appearance of the facility would occur.

10. **Air Quality**

    | ✓ | ☐ |

    **Explanation:** Potential for short-term impacts from dust during construction

11. **Noise**

    | ✓ | ☐ |

    **Explanation:** Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. No residential areas or businesses nearby.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

    | ✓ | ☐ |

    **Explanation:** Removal of PT/CTS containing PCBs eliminates a potential health/environmental hazard. Equipment would be removed using BMPS to prevent accidental spills; equipment will be managed and disposed of in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

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**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: All PCB containing equipment would be managed and disposed of according to applicable state and federal regulations.

- 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: N/A, owned by BPA.

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

Signed: /s/ Philip W. Smith Date: October 7, 2014
Philip W. Smith/KEPR-4