

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 Line Local Area Protection Scheme Project

**Project Manager:** Alaric Hsu, TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Clark, Lewis, and Thurston counties, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.7 Electronic equipment

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to implement a joint plan with Tacoma Power to provide and install a local area protection scheme (LAPS) to protect BPA's Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 230-kilovolt (kV) line from thermal overloads. BPA would install equipment at several BPA facilities and Tacoma Power facilities in Lewis and Thurston counties, Washington. Equipment to be installed would include current transducers, universal relays, digital fiber optic communication systems, remedial action scheme (RAS) generation drop panels, contact extenders, LAPS controllers, and digital communication data circuits. These actions would only occur inside existing facilities and would not involve ground disturbance or building modifications. For specific activities at specific locations, refer to Table 1.

Table 1. Proposed Actions

Facility (Owner)	BPA Project Action	State	County
Capitol Peak Radio Station (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verify the existence of a communication path between BPA's Capitol Peak Radio Station and Tacoma's Capitol Peak Radio Station using existing communications equipment; install digital fiber optic communication systems at both locations if a communication path does not exist</li></ul>	WA	Thurston
Chehalis Substation (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide and install two universal relays, two contact extenders, and two LAPS controllers for the RAS on the Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 230-kV line</li><li>• Provide and install two digital communication data circuits between Chehalis Substation and Tacoma's Mayfield Switchyard for LAPS data</li><li>• Provide and install two digital communication data circuits between Chehalis Substation and BPA's Capitol Peak Radio Station for LAPS data</li></ul>	WA	Lewis

Silver Creek Substation (BPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide and install one digital fiber optic communication system between Silver Creek Substation and Tacoma's Mayfield Switchyard over existing multimode fiber cable</li> </ul>	WA	Lewis
Mayfield Switchyard (Tacoma)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide and install two five-amp current transducers and two universal relays</li> <li>Provide and install one digital fiber optic communication system between Tacoma's Mayfield Switchyard and Silver Creek Substation over existing multimode fiber cable</li> </ul>	WA	Lewis
Mossyrock Switchyard (Tacoma)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide and install two RAS generation drop panels and two contact extenders</li> </ul>	WA	Lewis

BPA would also perform necessary updates within its Dittmer Control Center, located in Clark County, Washington, to provide LAPS data to Tacoma's energy management system.

**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/ Hannah Sharp

Hannah Sharp  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 22, 2015

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:** Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 Line Local Area Protection Scheme Project

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### Project Site Description

All work would take place within existing BPA and Tacoma Power facilities. No habitat or vegetation is present in the project areas.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because all work would be inside existing facilities and no building modification would occur, BPA has determined that these project activities have no potential to affect historic properties provided that the project activities are carried out as described.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No soil disturbance proposed.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing facilities. No plants present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing facilities. No habitat present.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work proposed. Project would not be in a floodplain.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No soil disturbance proposed.

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

Explanation: All work in existing facilities.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: All work in existing facilities. New equipment would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust possible during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary noise during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.

### **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:

- 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: Coordination with Tacoma Power.

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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/ Hannah Sharp

Date: July 22, 2015

Hannah Sharp

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

CorSource Technology Group