

# memorandum

DATE: September 24, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Christine Kimball  
Project Manager – TERR-3

**Proposed Action:** LURR 20140504 Ross Substation Comcast Fiber Installation

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way.

**Location:** Vancouver, WA

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to approve land use review request 20140504, which would authorize Comcast to install conduit and a vault in BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) between structures 176/3 and 176/2 on the McNary-Ross No 1 line. The 2-inch conduit containing a fiber optic cable and a coax cable would be installed at a minimum of 36 inches below grade. The conduit would start at the southeastern corner of NE 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NE Ross Street and would end inside of the Pacific Northwest Federal Credit Union (Credit Union), which is located at 5411 NE Highway 99. The Credit Union lies to the east of the Ross Substation. The area of potential impact has been developed and includes a parking lot, road, and a very small landscaped area.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Environmental Project Manager

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 24, 2014

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions  
Provisions

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

BPA will include an inadvertent discovery plan in the project implementation plans and work crews will be notified of the plan. In the event that any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and cultural resource specialist. Notify interested tribes and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site and restrict access to the site of discovery.

A dig permit must be obtained from Ross Environment before excavation on BPA property may begin. BPA will collect soil samples prior to issuing a dig permit. If analytical results reveal contamination, excavated soil may not be used as backfill.

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: LURR 20140504 Ross Substation Comcast Fiber Installation

Work Order #: 00184006

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources BPA notified Washington SHPO on August 26, 2014 that, based on previous archaeological investigations in the same area, <i>no historic properties will be affected</i> as a result of the proposed project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) The project area includes a parking lot, road, and a very small landscaped area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety A dig permit is required. All provisions outlined in the permit must be followed to insure the health and safety of workers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

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