

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Approval of Land Use Review Request for Sewer Installation and Park Construction in a BPA Right-of-Way (ROW) in Clark County

Project No. Land Use Review Request #20140563

Project Manager: Miroslava Rivera, TERR-3

Location: Clark County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to authorize Evergreen Quarry, LLC (Evergreen) to install a new sewer mainline and construct a park on BPA's fee-owned ROW in Clark County, Washington. The installation would be located between structures 29/3 and 30/1 of BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1, 230-kilovolt transmission Line. The new sewer mainline is necessary to meet the needs of the City of Vancouver's service area. The park and trails would connect to an existing park adjacent to the project site, and would provide an amenity to the neighborhood.

Evergreen would install approximately 1,200 feet of new sewer mainline to connect to an off-site sewer. The new sewer would be an eight-inch diameter line installed at a depth of fifteen to twenty feet and would include three new manholes. Evergreen would grade part of the ROW to match the project site grade to abutting grades using soil that is currently stockpiled in the ROW. Evergreen would also construct a park with ten-foot-wide asphalt trails and other amenities including turf, benches, and picnic tables.

All work would occur within the boundaries of a previously disturbed BPA fee-owned transmission line ROW.

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: January 26, 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.

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Project Site Description

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned right-of-way between structures 29/3 and 30/1 of BPA’s North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 Line. The site consists of transmission lines, towers, and disturbed upland open meadow habitat. The project site is adjacent to NE 18th Street in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. Existing vegetation consists of native and nonnative shrubs and sapling trees, a grass and forb understory, and approximately 20 percent invasive Scotch broom coverage. The surrounding landscape consists of residential development.

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> WA SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination 1/5/15. Cowlitz Tribe consulted—no response.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Up to 10 acres of disturbance for new sewer, trails, and other park amenities. <u>Mitigation:</u> Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species present. Vegetation regularly managed to accommodate transmission lines and towers present on the site.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species or designated habitat present.		

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



Explanation: No potential to affect floodplains or water bodies. No in-water work proposed.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately twenty feet.

Mitigation:

Ensure spill containment and cleanup materials are readily available at the project site, staging areas, and in construction vehicles and equipment. Replace any used spill response material within 24 hours.

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



Explanation: All work on fee-owned right-of-way.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The new turf, trails, and other park amenities would be consistent with existing development.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions at project locations.

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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: No notification. All work on BPA fee-owned property and no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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: January 26, 2015