

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Washougal Vegetative Maintenance

**LURR No:** 20150160

**Project Manager:** Andrew Whitehead- TERR-3

**Location:** Clark County, WA

**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:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to allow Jess Cline to maintain approximately 0.6 acre on BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW). Mr. Cline is the adjacent landowner and access to his property is via a driveway that is partially located on BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 transmission line rights-of-way. Mr. Cline would like to maintain the 0.6 acre area, which is currently vegetated with grass species, including mowing and planting. No ground disturbance is proposed, other than for planting.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Adecco Engineering & Technical

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 8, 2015

Attachments: 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 0.6 acre site is located on 380<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Washougal, Washington. The site is on BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 transmission line ROW. It is currently vegetated with grass species and some fruit trees; the applicant, who owns the adjacent property to the north, has recently cleared it. The project vicinity is mostly undeveloped with sparse residences.

### 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> The proposed activities do not have the potential to affect historic or cultural resources. No historic properties are known to occur on the proposed site.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No soil disturbance proposed, other than a minimal amount for vegetative planting.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No significant impacts proposed to existing vegetation.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is not suitable for wildlife habitat.		
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 water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed.

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

Explanation: No change to land use proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change to the project site proposed.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No impact.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No impact.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact.

### **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: Not applicable.

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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/ Elizabeth Siping

Date: July 8, 2015