

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross Complex Sally Port Entrance Relocation

Project Manager: Les Lasher, *NWM-4*

Location: Vancouver, Clark County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.32 Traffic Flow Adjustments

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to adjust traffic flow and create a new sally port entrance—a double-gated security entrance—into BPA’s Ross Complex off of NE Minnehaha Street in Vancouver, Washington. Adjustments to traffic flow would involve constructing a truck deceleration lane on NE Minnehaha Street, creating a sally port entrance, and providing off-street truck parking and turnaround lane.

The existing Ross Complex Gate 16 sally port entrance allows for security inspection, but does not accommodate all vehicle types or provide adequate temporary parking space for a truck to queue off NE Minnehaha Street while waiting for security clearance to access the Ross Complex. Thus, intermittent traffic flow impairments now occur on NE Minnehaha Street. The proposed project would provide improved vehicle access to the Ross Complex and reduce intermittent traffic flow impairments occurring on NE Minnehaha Street.

The proposed project would include construction of a truck deceleration lane (approximately 300 ft in length) and a left turn lane (approximately 125 ft in length) in the westerly direction on NE Minnehaha Street; roadway widening and utility relocation; relocation of sidewalks, curbs, bike lane, street lights, and street signs; and landscaping to County standards.

Other proposed features would include: a one person, prefabricated guard house (17 ft by 8.5 ft or 144.5 sf) with toilet (plumbing would tie into existing plumbing network), and construction of a canopy over the vehicle screening area (approximately 47 ft by 90 ft) to provide weather protection for personnel. Stormwater would be directed to an adjacent existing facility. The project would permanently remove buildings Z-1423 and Z-1424. Current building contents would be stored temporarily in the north yard. Also, the project would remove invasive species and ornamental vegetation including small diameter, short stature trees; remove soil; and add gravel and pavement to existing and new driveways.

The potential for additional vehicle trips on NE Minnehaha Street due to the proposed traffic flow adjustments is expected to be minimal; presently approximately 50 employees and less than 10 trucks enter and exit the Ross Complex at the proposed sally port per average day.

The total area of land disturbance for the project would be approximately 2.0 acres.

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/ Sandra Ackley
Sandra Ackley
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: June 24, 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 Ross Complex, located within the city of Vancouver, WA, is a BPA fee-owned, industrial property managed to support transmission services. The NE Minnehaha Street is a Clark County arterial. The proposed project is bounded by industrial and residential areas with through vehicular arterials. The proposed project site is an area of previously disturbed soils from industrial and traffic uses; exhibits flat topography with compacted and rearranged soil layers; contains ornamental and invasive plant species.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Findings of no historic properties affected with concurrence from WA DAHP (6/16/2015). An inadvertent discovery plan will be in place during construction as requested by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Expect minimal soil disturbance on already disturbed sites using conventional earth moving equipment; soil layers have been previously rearranged; erosion control measures and best management practices would be implemented to reduce dust.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state status species on site; no habitat present. Vegetation proposed for removal includes invasive species and ornamentals. Follow-up landscaping will be done according to County standards.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Site lacks required habitat conditions to support wildlife habitat or federal or state status species. No known Washington State special status wildlife species would be affected and no trees that support migratory bird nests would be disturbed.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no water bodies within or near by. Project is not located in a floodplain. No water thus no fish would be present.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: There are no wetlands within or near by.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water is proposed.

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

Explanation: All work will be conducted in an existing industrial area and along an existing traffic arterial. All proposed ground disturbing actions would follow best management practices.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Proposed adjustments to traffic flow would be visually consistent with existing views along the industrial areas of NE Minnehaha Street and the Ross Complex. Removal of existing buildings and installation of security gates should have minimal impact on individuals using NE Minnehaha Street as these are located slightly downhill and away from the street, sidewalk, and bike lanes.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Anticipate insignificant amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to project actions. Conventional earth moving equipment would be operated. All proposed ground disturbing actions would follow best management practices to reduce the release of dust and vehicle emissions.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary road construction noise to occur during daylight hours. Operational noise levels would not change. City of Vancouver noise ordinances would be followed.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Improved through traffic flow should reduce the risk of vehicular accidents; traffic flow adjustments would significantly reduce the need for trucks to travel through the Ross Complex thus reducing potential conflicts with passenger vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians utilizing other sectors of the Ross Complex. Improvements associated with the adjustments should improve visibility and safety for public and Ross Complex staff. All proposed construction would follow city and state construction requirements and include following best management practices to reduce impacts to human health and increase safety awareness.

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: Coordination has occurred and would be ongoing with Clark County officials and City of Vancouver officials.

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

Signed: /s/ Sandra Ackley
Sandra Ackley – KEC-4

Date: June 24, 2015