

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Right-of-Way Sale and Temporary Construction Permit - New Four Seasons Lane to 138th Ave segment

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert, TERR-LMT

Location: Clark County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell the City of Vancouver (City) between 2 and 10 feet (width varies with location) of BPA's fee-owned portions of the North Bonneville – Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line rights-of-way. The City would use the purchased land in support of their NE 18th Street Project between New Four Seasons Lane and 138th Avenue, which would include the construction of additional vehicle and bike lanes, a sidewalk, gutters, curbs, and retaining walls. In addition, BPA would issue a temporary construction permit to the City where the City would stage equipment and grade existing driveways to connect to the modified roadway. All property transfers and permit acquisitions would occur between structures 30/3 and 31/2 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 Transmission lines. In total, BPA would sell the City approximately 0.5 acre of land for the new road lane and pedestrian/bike path and sell about 0.1 acre of land for additional permanent features (such as sidewalks, street lights, gutters, curbs, traffic signals, and retaining walls). BPA would issue a temporary construction permit for the City to use approximately 2.3 acres for construction activities that would include staging areas and driveway grading.

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/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 31, 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: North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Right-of-Way Sale and Construction Permit

Project Site Description

All lands subject to property transfer and temporary construction permitting are located between structures 30/3 and 31/2 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 Transmission lines in managed right-of-way crossing suburban residential and agricultural lands. Vegetation consists of scrub-shrub, agricultural grasslands (hayfields, pasture, and annual/perennial grass fields), row crops, and small tree orchards. No waterbodies or wetlands are within or near the project area. Several driveways leading to residences cross the subject area.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred that the project would have no effect on cultural resources in their letter dated July 29, 2015. A cultural monitor would be onsite during ground disturbance in any unsurveyed locations.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 2.9 acres of land would be disturbed for construction. A majority of the project area has been previously disturbed by agriculture and transmission line construction. The City would implement erosion control best management practices (BMPs) to limit potential erosion.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Vegetation in the area is comprised of low-growing plants and agricultural crops/trees within a managed right-of-way. There are no documented occurrences of any plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the project would have no effect on ESA-listed plant species.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 2.9 acres of open/agricultural habitat would be disturbed for construction. Disruption of normal wildlife behavior may occur from temporary elevated noise and human presence. Due to the residential/agricultural nature of the project area, most wildlife are accustomed to disturbance. There are no documented occurrences or suitable habitat for any wildlife listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the project would have no effect on ESA-listed wildlife species.</p>		

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



Explanation: There are no waterbodies, floodplains, or fish present within or adjacent to the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands within the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or groundwater uses are proposed. The City would implement a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan to limit the potential for hazardous spills contaminating aquifers.

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



Explanation: Increased vehicular traffic associated with construction may temporarily hinder local roadway users. Land users may be temporarily disrupted during construction due to noise, presence of heavy equipment, and ground disturbance. The City would implement appropriate traffic controls to limit delays to local users and would work with land owners to limit land use disruptions. Landowners would be compensated at fair market value for all displacements and property acquisitions.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Construction equipment and lighting may temporarily disrupt the visual quality of the project area. After construction, views of the project area would include additional road infrastructure, but the project would not change the nature of the existing landscape.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during construction. Some construction phases, particularly during paving operations using asphalt, would result in short-term odors. BMPs would be implemented to reduce the air emissions generated. Long term emissions from the project are not predicted to exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The City would implement dust abatement BMPs to limit dust levels.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise would be generated during construction. Construction activities would be consistent with the Washington State Department of Transportation's noise provisions.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Standard construction safety measures would be implemented.

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: N/A

- 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The City of Vancouver, Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highways Administration completed a NEPA review for the project that included public comment opportunities. Further, the City has notified landowners of the current construction schedule.

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

Signed: /s/ Kathey Grange

Date: July 31, 2015