

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Green Crow Logging Road– LURR 20140527

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert - 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 grant Green Crow Corporation an easement to construct a gravel logging road across BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) north of Washougal, WA. The road location is within BPA's North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 and 2 transmission line corridor. The road will include a 12-foot wide driving surface approximately 310-feet long and run north to south perpendicular to the ROW. The road location is on a side slope so cuts and fills would be required to establish a level surface. The total width of ground disturbance will be approximately 30 feet. The new logging road will cross the ROW approximately 700 feet east of NE 341st Avenue between Ammeter Road to the north and Washougal River Road to the south.

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/ Douglas F. Corkran

Douglas F. Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 18, 2016

Attachment: 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: Green Crow Logging Road Easement – LURR 20140527

Project Site Description

The project is located approximately 700 feet east of NE 341st Avenue between Ammeter Road to the north and Washougal River Road to the south near Washougal, Washington. The site is on BPA's North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 and 2 transmission corridor. It is currently a maintained ROW. The project vicinity is rural with sparse residences.

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> The proposed activities do not have the potential to affect historical or cultural resources. No historical properties or cultural resources are known to occur on the proposed site. A cultural resources specialist visited the site and found no evidence of cultural or historical resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 9,300 square feet of upland area on maintained BPA ROW would convert from low growing brush and small trees to a gravel road. The terrain in the road location is sloped to the east so would require cut and fill slopes to be established. Cut and fill slopes would be revegetated following construction to prevent soil erosion and movement.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No significant impacts; vegetation on site is limited to common, low-growing forest species. No threatened or endangered plants were identified during Spring site surveys.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present in or near the project area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected. The nearest water body is a small stream located approximately 700 feet east of the project area. Any sediment leaving the project area would be trapped by vegetation well before reaching this stream.		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed. The construction and existence of the road will not significantly change infiltration patterns to the point where groundwater would be affected.

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



Explanation: No change to land use. There are no specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The new road would be gravel and is located in a rural area with other gravel roads nearby and no residences or high-use areas from which it could be seen.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary, intermittent noise during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety.

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: BPA is working with Green Crow Corporation, who owns the property adjacent to the ROW and who is proposing the project.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas F. Corkran
Douglas F. Corkran – ECT-4

Date: May 18, 2016