

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Access Road Easement Acquisition for DeMoss-Fossil No. 1 Transmission Line

Project No.: TER ID 14-0174

Project Manager: Bruce Edson

Location: Sherman County, Oregon

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 acquire easements on existing roads in order to access the existing DeMoss-Fossil 115-kilovolt transmission line. Acquisitions of easement rights are necessary for BPA to have legal access to existing transmission line structures for ongoing operation and maintenance activities. The roads would be used as is and no improvements are proposed at this time.

Easement acquisition would be acquired on two segments of existing access roads on Parcels 01S18E00002200 and 01S18E00002500, located in Township 1 South, Range 18 East, Sections 11 and 14.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 24, 2016

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: Access Road Easement Acquisition for DeMoss-Fossil No. 1 Transmission Line

Project Site Description

Easement acquisition would be on existing roads across privately-owned lands, which are currently in agricultural and wind-power production. The landscape consists of undulating hillsides within a shrub-steppe ecosystem. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies at the site.

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> No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.		
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 proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u>		

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

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



Explanation:

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

No proposed ground disturbance. Acquisition of easement rights only.

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 Realty Specialists are coordinating with the landowner to negotiate easements agreements. There would be no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: February 24, 2016