

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Wautoma-Rock Creek Perpetual Right-of-Way Grant Acquisition

Project Manager: Miroslava Rivera, Realty Specialist, TERR-3

Location: Klickitat County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to acquire a perpetual right-of-way grant for BPA's existing Wautoma-Rock Creek transmission line across a parcel of land in Klickitat County, Washington. Originally BPA had acquired a 50-year easement for the right-of-way from Yakama Tribal Allottees. However, the easement has expired and the Bureau of Land Management now owns the parcel. The right-of-way is identified as BPA tract BE-MI-39-A-95SIA and is 125-feet wide and 227.7-feet long; located in the NW1/4 NE1/4 of Section 19, Township 5 North, Range 19 East Willamette Meridian.

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/ Justin Moffett
Justin Moffett

Concur:

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

Date: July 6, 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.

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Project Site Description

The parcel that the transmission line right-of-way crosses is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as rangeland.

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 right-of-way grant would have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. No consultation required.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Right-of-way grant only. No impact.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Right-of-way grant only. No impact.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Right-of-way grant only. No impact.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Right-of-way grant only. No impact.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Right-of-way grant only. No impact.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Right-of-way grant only. No impact.

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

Explanation: The right-of-way grant would formalize existing use of BLM land. No changes to current land use proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Right-of-way grant only. No impact.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Right-of-way grant only. No impact.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Right-of-way grant only. No impact.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Right-of-way grant only. 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA is working with the BLM to acquire the right-of-way grant.

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

Signed: /s/ Justin Moffett
Justin Moffett, ECT-4

Date: July 6, 2016