

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Troutdale Substation Fiber Installation

**Project Manager:** Joseph Bebee – TESH-CSB-2

**Location:** Multnomah County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.7 Fiber optic cable

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to install new fiber optic cable and associated vaults on BPA fee-owned property and on BPA right-of-way (ROW) at the Troutdale Substation. The additional fiber optic cable is needed to relieve an existing bottleneck in the area.

Work inside the substation yard would include trenching and installation of two 4-inch conduits for approximately 2,000 feet at a depth of 2 feet as well as installation of six vaults measuring 4-foot by 4-foot.

Work outside of the substation yard would include boring under the road in two locations north of the substation and installation of two 4-inch conduits for a total of approximately 400 feet at a depth of 2 feet. Work would also include installation of three vaults measuring 4-foot by 4-foot. Two vaults would be located near structure 25/3 on the Ostrander-Troutdale No. 1 transmission line. One vault would be located near structure 28/4 on the North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 transmission line.

Staging and excavation for vaults would disturb approximately 20-feet by 20-feet for each vault.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 17, 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:** Troutdale Substation Fiber Installation

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### Project Site Description

The site is located at BPA’s Troutdale Substation on fee-owned ROW and on BPA ROW owned by the Port of Portland in Multnomah County, Oregon. The project area inside Troutdale Substation consists of yard rock. The project area in BPA ROW would be under an existing, unnamed road and in an area dominated by grasses with scattered shrubs. The surrounding area has mostly been developed with commercial businesses including the Troutdale Airport. Company Lake, Columbia River, and the Sandy River are within ½ mile north and east of the Troutdale Substation; however, a large berm separates the project area from these water bodies.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed activities would occur in an area that has previously been surveyed and no historic properties or cultural resources were found; therefore, there is no potential to affect historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Trenching would occur in yard rock inside the substation to a depth of 2 feet for approximately 2,000 feet. Boring would occur outside of the substation at a depth of 2 feet for approximately 400 feet.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species requiring protection are known to occur at the site.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species requiring protection are known to occur at the site.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Company Lake, Columbia River, and the Sandy River are within ½ mile north and east of the Troutdale Substation; however, a large berm separates the project area from these water bodies and their floodplains.		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Wetlands have been delineated on BPA ROW north of the Troutdale Substation and are present. A small area of wetlands is present 50-feet north of tower 25/3 on the Ostrander-Troutdale No. 1 transmission line.

Mitigation: An environmental protection specialist will either be present during work in this location or will put up fencing to demark the wetland area to be avoided.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance is expected to be only 2 feet.

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



Explanation: No change to land use is proposed. The Troutdale Substation is within an area designated as the Reynolds Superfund Site Oregon due to groundwater contamination. A Memorandum of Agreement among the US Department of Energy, BPA, and the Environmental Protection Agency restricts ground-disturbing activities on BPA's substation property, specifically addressing potential impacts to groundwater as a result of activities occurring at a depth greater than 15 feet. This project would not impact groundwater and the maximum depth of trenching and boring would be 2 feet.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No change to appearance is proposed.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small, temporary amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary increase in noise would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety anticipated. Refer to Section 8 above.

### 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA has notified Port of Portland of its intent to install fiber optic cable in the ROW.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: August 17, 2016