

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Use of Allston-Driscoll No. 2 Access Road – LURR 20160406

**Project Manager:** Andrew Whitehead - TERR-3

**Location:** Columbia County, OR

**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 Tim and Tami Carleton to use an existing gravel road across BPA fee-owned and leased right-of-way (ROW) near Rainier, OR. The road location is within BPA's Allston-Driscoll No. 2 transmission line corridor in Township 7N, Range 3W, Section 15 WM. The applicant proposes to use the existing access road in Tracts SJ-A-44-391A, SJ-A-7-A-394, K-A-42-A-802 and ALSN-SS-P11SC. The road would be used to allow logging equipment and vehicles to access a property owned by the applicant. No work on the access road or on BPA ROW is planned.

**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: October 26, 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.

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## Project Site Description

The project is located approximately 0.5 miles south of US Highway 30 between Old Rainier Road to the west, and Health Road to the east, near Rainier, Oregon. The site is on BPA's Allston-Driscoll No. 1 and No. 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. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<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 ground disturbing activities would take place as the action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No additional sediment or runoff from use by the applicant of the existing access road is expected.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (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. The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.		
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> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected. The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.

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



Explanation: No change to land use. There are no specially designated areas. The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions are anticipated during use of the access road.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary, intermittent noise during use of the access road is expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety. The action is limited to vehicles driving along an existing access road.

### **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 is working with the property owners who own the portion of private land underlying the ROW.

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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: October 26, 2016