

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Troutdale No.1 Transmission Line Gate Replacement

PP&A No.: 3465

Project Manager: Richard Ross– Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

Location: Cowlitz County, Washington

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
02N	04E	21	Clark, WA	WA State (WDNR)

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace two gates along a small section of access road for the North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 transmission line north of structure 18/5 (BPA Road ID: NBON-TROU-1-018-05-0). Replacing the two gates would include heavy-duty isolation panels to prevent off-road vehicles from passing around them. General equipment used for this type of project includes excavators, augers, and trucks.

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/ Kevin George

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist – EPI-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 11, 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: North Bonneville-Troutdale No.1 Transmission Line (18/5) Gate Replacement

Project Site Description

Two proposed gate replacements are located along a section of BPA access road (BPA Road ID: NBON-TROU-1-018-05-0) near the city of Washougal, WA. Elevation (above mean sea level) at each gate location is approximately 1,025 and 1,050 feet for the north and south gates, respectively; land is sloped within the project site. The gate locations and surrounding areas are state owned (Washington Department of Natural Resources) and include natural land cover. Land use in the surrounding area includes forestland, agriculture, and scattered, semi-rural/suburban development.

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> BPA determined that the project has no potential to affect historic properties because the proposed work is extremely limited in nature, is located within previously disturbed graded and graveled ground, and is located within the existing footprint of the previously disturbed gate support post locations.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soils will be disturbed for replacement of the gates within areas of previous disturbance. Minimal soil disturbance is proposed; erosion control measures would be used. Excess boring soils will be spread and stabilized on-site. Stabilization will include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species present. Approximately 0.06 acre of previously-disturbed grasses and shrubs may be removed or disturbed. Disturbed areas will be reseeded.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species or designated habitat present. Low-quality habitat typical of the area would be disturbed (approximately 0.06 acre).		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project is approximately 0.8 mile north of the Washougal River and there are no National Wetland Inventory wetlands or waterbodies that intersect the project site; the nearest waterbody or floodplain is		

0.56-mile northwest of the northern gate.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no mapped National Wetland Inventory wetlands that overlap with the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new groundwater wells or use of ground water proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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



Explanation: The gate replacements would occur within the footprints of the existing gates and no land use changes are expected; no specially-designated areas are located within the project site.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The gate replacements would occur within the footprints of the existing gates; there will be no impact on visual quality relative to existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected for a short duration due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise is expected for a short duration from gate replacement activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields will result from the project.

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: Coordination occurred with Washington Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist, Noelle Nordstrom, June 22, 2016. No specific provisions/mitigations were requested.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist – EPI-4

Date: August 11, 2016