

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** City of Vancouver Sidewalk Easement—North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Corridor

**Project No.:** LURR 20170145

**Project Manager:** Bryant Cheong—TERR-3

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple use of power line rights-of-way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to grant an easement to the City of Vancouver to install a sidewalk beneath the North Bonneville-Ross-1 and 2 transmission lines. The sidewalk would be 6 feet wide by 90 feet long (with a 10-foot by 90-foot easement) and would parallel the west side of NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The City of Vancouver would also relocate a fence at the site onto BPA property.

**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 Recruiting & Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 3, 2017

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 location is in Clark County, Washington, along Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) North Bonneville-Ross-1 & 2 transmission line, on the west side of NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The project is within Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 2 East.

The project area is currently used as a livestock pasture. The vegetation consists of pasture grasses.

A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil survey, topography, and aerial photos did not indicate that there are any wetlands or water bodies at the site. This was verified during a site visit on February 17, 2017.

### 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> BPA’s cultural staff reviewed the project and determined that the project area has been previously disturbed. They have concluded that the project is unlikely to affect historical or cultural resources; therefore, no further action is required.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is mostly level, but would require minor excavation and grading of soils. The grading would be to a maximum depth of 12 inches. Best management practices (BMPs) would be utilized to prevent erosion of soils.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is currently used as a livestock pasture. There are no special-status plant species or habitat present. The project would have no impacts to special-status species.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status wildlife species or habitat present. The project would have no impacts to special-status species.		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species. The nearest stream is approximately 1.5 miles to the northeast of the project location. BMPs would be utilized to avoid erosion during construction.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project area does not contain any wetlands; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers, as the maximum depth of disturbance would be 12 inches.

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



Explanation: There would be no major changes to the land use in the project areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project would not alter the visual quality of the area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The nearest residence is approximately 175 feet from the project location. Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The project would ensure that pedestrians continue to have a safe walkway along NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

### 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: The project would occur on BPA owned property and is adjacent to a busy road; therefore, it is unlikely to affect nearby landowners.

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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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger—ECT-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: April 3, 2017