

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Clark Public Utilities wood pole and Comcast cable installation on North Bonneville-Ross transmission line right-of-way

**LURR Nos.:** 20160152 and 20170089

**Project Manager:** Dawneen Dostert, TERR-LMT

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**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 allow Clark Public Utilities to install wood utility poles and appurtenances (LURR20160152) and Comcast to install cables (LURR20170089) on BPA fee-owned property in Vancouver, WA.

The City of Vancouver plans to expand the south side of NE 18<sup>th</sup> Street, which would displace an existing Clark Public Utilities transmission line and Comcast equipment currently located on the street's southern edge. Clark Public Utilities and Comcast are proposing to relocate their facilities onto the adjacent Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line right-of-way between NE Four Seasons Lane and NE 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Clark Public Utilities would install the following equipment on BPA fee-owned property at variable distances north of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 transmission line, yet south of the right-of-way boundary line, between structures 30/3 and 31/4:

- Eleven (11) new wood utility poles
- Five (5) guy wires and anchors
- Four (4) transformers
- Six (6) junction boxes
- One (1) secondary pedestal

Project activities include using an auger to dig holes up to 15 feet deep for the new wood utility poles, grading the surface soil, excavating to install anchors for guy wires, installing electric equipment, and using a bucket truck to string conductor.

Comcast would install a single coaxial cable, a single fiber optic cable, and a single ¼ inch support strand on the 11 Clark Public Utilities' wood poles. No additional soil disturbance would be associated with the Comcast cable installation.

**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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Rosy Mazaika for

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 30, 2017

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 new Clark Public Utilities and Comcast equipment would be located within BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 transmission line right-of-way, between structures 30/3 and 31/4, in Vancouver, Washington. The site is a managed right-of-way with low-growing shrubs and grasses. The surrounding area is suburban residential with some agriculture crops in the right-of-way. No wetlands or water bodies are within or near the project area.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA Senior Archaeologist reviewed a 2003 cultural resources report authored by Heritage Research Associates, Inc. (HRA). He determined that the project areas associated with LURR20160152 and LURR20170089 are contained within the larger Area of Potential Effect that HRA used for their Section 106 consultation.</p> <p>The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with the report's findings on September 3, 2004 that two sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the proposed undertaking would have an Adverse Effect to historic properties. However, those two cultural sites fall outside of the project areas for LURR20160152 and LURR20170089, and the undertaking associated with these two LURRs would have no potential to adversely affect historic properties.</p> <p>DAHP reevaluated the project and reiterated their original concurrence with the determination of no historic properties affected on July 29, 2015 for the Area of Potential Effect located between Four Season Lane and 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue; however, should cultural deposits be encountered during construction activities, work shall halt immediately, and the BPA archaeologist should be notified and suitable action taken.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area has recently been graded to bare soil. Wood poles would be installed up to 15 feet deep. Excess soil from ground disturbance activities would be spread around the site locally. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to address temporary erosion and sediment control.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal vegetation exists in the project area due to recent grading. There are no documented occurrences of any plant species listed under the ESA in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed plant species.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: Disruption of normal wildlife behavior may occur from temporary elevated noise and human presence in the project area. There are no documented occurrences of any wildlife species listed under the ESA in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed wildlife species.

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



Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish present within the project area; therefore, no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be impacted by project activities.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands within the project area; therefore, no wetlands would be impacted by project activities.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The maximum soil disturbance depth would be 15 feet. However, no groundwater or aquifers would be impacted by project activities.

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



Explanation: No specially designated areas are located within the project area, and no land use changes are proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The relocation of existing wood poles, conductor, cables and appurtenances approximately 30 to 60 feet south of their current location would not impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and emissions would increase in the local area during project activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise would increase in the local area during project activities.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts to health and human safety are expected as a result of project activities.

### **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 applicant is currently communicating with adjacent landowners through the City of Vancouver's public notification process, associated with the larger road expansion project.

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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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: March 30, 2017