

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Clark Public Utilities Easement

Project No.: LURR 20170284

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 Clark Public Utilities (CPU) within BPA's Ross-Lexington-1 transmission right-of-way (ROW). CPU would install a power pedestal and underground power conduit between CPU's wood pole #14219 and an adjacent residence to the north. The project would involve approximately 30 feet of trenching within BPA's fee-owned ROW.

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/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 8, 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) Ross-Lexington-1 transmission line, on the east side of NE 17th Avenue, and north of NE Minnehaha Street. The project is within Section 11, Township 2 North, Range 1 East.

The project area is a utility right-of-way. The vegetation consists of Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), large leaf arvens (*Geum macrophyllum*), and bedstraw (*Galium aparine*).

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 June 02, 2017.

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> The project area has had substantial previous disturbance from urban development, and nearby locations have been extensively surveyed, with negative results. Therefore, BPA cultural staff has determined that the project is unlikely to affect cultural resources and that no further action is required.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Trenching for conduit installation would be to a maximum depth of 4 feet. Native soils would be used to backfill the trench. Best management practices (BMPs) would be utilized to prevent soil erosion.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status plant species or habitat present. The project area consists mainly of native and non-native forbs. The right-of-way is routinely mowed, and managed, to deter shrub and tree growth.		
4. Wildlife (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 0.20 miles to the south 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 maximum depth of disturbance would be 4 feet.

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



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

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 100 feet from the project location. Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The project would not impact human health or safety.

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: The project would occur on BPA-owned property and is being conducted to connect power to the adjacent landowner's workshop.

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

Date: August 8, 2017

Beth Belanger—ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
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