

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Clark Public Utilities Wood Pole Replacement on North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Right-of-Way

LURR No.: 20170334

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 replace a wood utility distribution pole on BPA fee-owned property in Vancouver, WA.

Clark Public Utilities is proposing to install a new 40-foot wood pole (6 feet below ground and 34 feet above ground) immediately adjacent to an existing wood pole of the same length. The existing pole is located between structures 25/5 on the Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines and NE 232nd Avenue. An auger truck would drill the new hole (approximately 18 inches in diameter and 6 feet deep) while parked on NE 232nd Avenue. The new wood pole would be inserted into the new hole, conductor would be moved from the old wood pole to the new pole, and then the old pole would be removed. The soil from the new hole would be used as back-fill for both holes. Any remaining excess soil would be dispersed locally.

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/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 11, 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.

Proposed Action: Clark Public Utilities Wood Pole Replacement on North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Right-of-Way

Project Site Description

Clark Public Utilities wood pole replacement project is located between structures 25/5 on the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 transmission line rights-of-way and NE 232nd Avenue, in Vancouver, Washington. The site is a managed BPA right-of-way corridor with low-growing vegetation. The surrounding area is rural residential with some agricultural crops and pastures present in the vicinity. 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
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed project on June 28, 2017, and determined that no historic properties would be affected as a result of the proposed undertaking, and that Section 106 consultation would not be required.</p> <p>Should cultural deposits be encountered during construction activities, work shall halt immediately, and the BPA archaeologist should be notified and suitable action to protect the resources would be taken.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> 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>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Native and non-native grasses, American vetch, Lupine spp., catchweed bedstraw, and a common snowberry shrub growing tightly around the existing pole would be disturbed with the proposed project activities. 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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> 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.</p>		

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 project area is within the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10 Troutdale Sole Source Aquifer System area. However, the maximum depth of the new hole would be 6 feet, which would not impact groundwater or the existing aquifer. BMPs would be implemented, as necessary.

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 new wood pole would be the same height as the existing wood pole (34 feet above ground) that would be replaced; therefore, no change to the visual quality of the area is anticipated.

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: Traffic flaggers and other BMPs to ensure human health and safety during project activities would be implemented.

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 area is on BPA fee-owned land. No adjacent landowner coordination necessary.

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: July 11, 2017