

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Lower Columbia Estuary Partners' Hamilton Creek Restoration Project Access Road Use – North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 Corridor

Project Number: LURR 20170253

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert, TERR-3

Location: Skamania County, WA

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) proposes to allow Lower Columbia Estuary Partners to use and improve the portion of Hamilton Creek Road that crosses BPA fee-owned right-of-way (about 400 feet). Access road use would provide Lower Columbia Estuary Partners access to their Hamilton Creek stream restoration site. Road improvements would include the temporary removal of a gravel, cobble, and dirt access barrier and the installation of spot gravel within the previously-established road prism. No grading or ground disturbance would be required and no use outside of the existing road prism would occur. Road improvement and use would occur after July 16.

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/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 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.

Proposed Action: Lower Columbia Estuary Partners’ Hamilton Creek Restoration Project Access Road Use – North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 Corridor

Project Site Description

The existing access road is located between 2/1 and 2/2 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 transmission lines. The transmission line corridor is adjacent to an open industrial use to the south and forested vegetation on Gifford Pinchot National Forest land to the north. The access road is on the BPA fee-owned land and crosses open right-of-way with low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Half of the access road length consists of rocky and bare dirt, while the other half of the length contains rocks with some grasses growing through the gravel.

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 archaeologist reviewed the proposed access road work and found that the activities had no potential to effect cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No new ground disturbance would occur. Spot gravel would be applied in a manner that would not cause erosion.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plants are located within or near the access road footprint.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Access road work would have no effect on ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat.		
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 access road is about 500 feet from the nearest waterbody, Hamilton Creek; therefore, the proposed action would not impact waterbodies or fish. The access road is not located within a floodplain.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands were identified within the existing access road; therefore, the work would have no		

impact on wetland resources.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur; therefore, there would be no disturbance to aquifers. No parking or staging that could result in vehicle leaks would occur on the access road or on BPA property.

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



Explanation: The portion of the access road located on BPA fee-owned property is located within an Urban land use designation in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. As the work would be located in an Urban land use designation, consistency with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area management plan would not be required.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Spot gravelling of the existing access road would result in a similar visual appearance as the current condition.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary elevated fugitive dust and vehicle emissions may result from summer truck use of the roadway. The contractor would employ dust control measures such as watering or speed controls when necessary to control dust.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary elevated noise would be generated from truck use. There are no noise-sensitive receptors near the access road.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: PPE would be used by workers in the area and vehicles using the access road would travel at reduced speeds.

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: BPA is the underlying landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange

Date: June 30, 2017