

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Clark Public Utilities Underground Conduit Installation on North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Right-of-way

LURR No.: 20160152

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 underground conduit, transformers, and appurtenances on BPA fee-owned property in Vancouver, WA.

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

Clark Public Utilities would perform the following actions between structures 30/3 and 31/4:

- 1) Install approximately 240 feet of 2-inch conduit underground to house a single phase electric power cable. The conduit would be located west of an existing driveway, and run parallel to it. The single phase electric power cable would enter a new pad-mounted transformer and then continue an additional 50 feet to a new secondary pedestal adjacent to an existing wood utility pole.
- 2) Install approximately 300 feet of 2-inch conduit underground to house a single phase electric power cable. The cable would enter a new pad-mounted transformer and then a new secondary pedestal immediately adjacent to the transformer.
- 3) Install approximately 400 feet of 2-inch conduit underground to house a single phase electric power cable. The conduit would be located west of an existing driveway, and run parallel to it. The single phase electric power cable would continue south beyond the BPA fee-owned property to a new transformer on private property.
- 4) Replace a three-pole wood structure approximately 25 feet from its current location, and restrung three existing conductor cables overhead between the replacement structure (at the northern end of the right-of-way) and an existing single wood pole structure located at the southern end of the right-of-way.

5) Install approximately 335 feet of 2-inch conduit underground to house a single phase electric power cable. The conduit would be located west of an existing driveway, and run parallel to it. The single phase electric power cable would continue south of the BPA fee-owned property to a new transformer on private property.

A 6-inch directional bore would be used to install all previously mentioned underground conduits at a depth of 48 inches. Should the applicant's contractor encounter problems with proposed directional boring method, they may need to utilize open-cut trench methods to complete the installation process. The trenches would be approximately 24-inches wide by 48-inches deep.

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: June 29, 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

Clark Public Utilities' new underground conduit would be located within BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 transmission line rights-of-way, between structures 30/3 and 31/4, in Vancouver, Washington. The site is a managed corridor with low-growing shrubs and grasses. The surrounding area is suburban residential with some agricultural crops present. 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> BPA initiated Section 106 consultation on April 3, 2017, with the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). DAHP concurred with BPA's Area of Potential Effect on the same day.</p> <p>On May 31, 2017, the BPA archaeologist determined that no adverse effects to historic properties were expected to occur as a result of the proposed undertaking.</p> <p>DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of effects on June 1, 2017. No response was received from the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, or the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.</p> <p>Should cultural deposits be encountered during construction activities, work shall halt immediately, and the BPA archaeologist should be notified and suitable action 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> Pasture grasses, Scotch broom, and blackberry shrubs 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 maximum soil disturbance depth would be 48 inches. No groundwater or aquifers are expected to be impacted by project activities. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented if 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: Equipment used to perform the project work may temporarily disrupt the visual quality of the project area. The conduit would be installed underground and would not change the visual quality of the area.

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:

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.

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

Date: June 29, 2017

Becky Hill
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC