

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Corridor Coaxial Cable Installation

LURR No.: 20170394

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert TERR-3

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 proposes to allow Comcast and its contractor Utiligi to attach about 300 feet of 0.625 coaxial cable at a height of 18'5" to existing Clark County PUD poles located across the BPA right-of-way near structure 34/3 of the North Bonneville-Ross No.1 and structure 34/3 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 transmission lines in Clark County, WA. The attachment of the cable to the poles would occur using a bucket truck and spool trailer. Vehicles would be kept off grass and only on the gravel road, but there would be foot traffic within the grassy area of the right-of-way.

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/ Chris H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/6/2017

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 attachment of coaxial cable would be on existing Clark County PUD poles located on maintained BPA right-of-way and access roads. The surrounding topography consists of gently sloping riparian area with neighboring parcels comprised of forested greenway areas, roads, parking areas, and flat suburban homesites and associated development. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site but there are wetlands located across the street about 100 feet from the project location.

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 proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the installation of the cable does not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources. Vehicles would be kept off grass and only on the gravel road, but there may be foot traffic within the grassy area.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be minimal soil disturbance for installation of the cable from use of a bucket truck. All work is occurring within the established BPA right-of-way.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would be occurring within the BPA right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. There are no listed or special-status species present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Installation of the cable is expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed or special-status species.		
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 nearest water body is Burnt Bridge Creek, which is located approximately 500 feet north of the project location and is designated critical habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. The vehicles for the project would be on gravel roads and installation of the cable for this project would be in the right-of-way without		

impact to the creek.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project location. A freshwater forested wetland is located across the street from the project location. A bucket truck would access the project area using existing access roads and will avoid Burnt Bridge Creek and any wetland areas adjacent to the creek and north of the project location.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: The installation of the cable would not impact land use or specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment due to the addition of the 18'5" tall coaxial cable.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Aerial installation of coaxial cable using a bucket truck on existing PUD poles in the BPA right-of-way is not expected to impact human health and 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: Comcast and its contractor Utiligi are conducting the project in coordination with the City of Vancouver and the City of Vancouver is the adjacent landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Chris H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4

Date: 10/5/2017