

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Line and Vault Installation in BPA Right-of-way at Bandon Substation

LURR No.: 200180144

Project Manager: Ryan Tanner TERR-3

Location: Coos County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to allow the City of Bandon to bury about 200 feet of an existing overhead circuit and reroute the wire going to pole E1, W3, T2 into a new 7' x 7' vault in the BPA right-of-way at the corner of Bill Creek Road and Mallory Lane near Bandon Substation in Coos County, Oregon. Additionally, the conduit will run about 200 feet from the vault to a new riser pole next to Mallory Lane. The existing triple circuit pole E1, W2, T2 will also be replaced with a double circuit pole. The area of BPA-owned right-of-way is located on the west side of the Bandon Substation. The site is located in Township 28 South, Range 14 West, Section 31.

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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 6, 2018

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 line and vault installation would be on maintained BPA right-of-way. The project area consists of the grassy area next to the Bandon Substation that is managed for low-growing vegetation. The surrounding topography consists of flat areas with neighboring parcels comprised of forested areas, developed home sites, and some farmed land. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. A shrub wetland and freshwater pond are located over 500 feet southeast of the project site. Ferry Creek is approximately 3700 feet to the north and Dufort Creek is 3200 feet east of 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 fencing and gate do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be some soil disturbance for installation of the fencing and gates. Some digging is expected for new line, post, and vault. All work is occurring in 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 in 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> The work would be in established BPA right-of-way. No trees would be removed, and the site is not identified to provide northern spotted owl habitat or nesting sites. Construction of the fence and gate 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 is a freshwater pond located over 500 feet southeast of the project site. Ferry Creek is approximately 3700 feet to the north, and Dufort Creek is over 3200 feet east of the project location. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be near the pond, Dufur Creek, or Ferry Creek.		

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| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present. | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The shallow digging for the project would not impact groundwater or aquifers. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no impact to the right-of-way located next to Bandon Substation and adjacent to Bill's Creek Road and Mallory Lane. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation. | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impacts expected. | | |

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 Realty is in coordination with City of Bandon.

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

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

Date: April 6, 2018