

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Benton County PUD Fiber Installation

**Project No.:** LURR 20180227

**Project Manager:** Mike Deklyen

**Location:** Benton County, WA

**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 Benton County Public Utility District to install new overhead fiber on their existing powerline poles within its Badger Canyon-Reata No. 1 fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) in Benton County, Washington. The new fiber would cross the ROW diagonally underneath the BPA transmission line. No ground disturbance would be required for the work.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
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: May 25, 2018

Attachment: 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:** Benton County PUD Fiber Installation

---

### Project Site Description

The project is located within BPA's Badger Canyon-Reata No. 1 fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) in Benton County, Washington. The ROW is near a residential area and is vegetated with native shrub-steppe vegetation.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would have no potential to affect historic or cultural resources. No historic properties are known to occur on or near the proposed site.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, no impacts to geology or soils are anticipated.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, no impacts to plants are anticipated. No federal or state special-status species are known to occur at the site.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No impacts to wildlife would be anticipated.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There is an unnamed intermittent stream in the ROW; however, no ground disturbance is proposed. No floodplains or fish are present.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed.

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

Explanation: No change to land use is anticipated. There are no specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The addition of fiber to the existing line would have minimal impact to the appearance of the line.

10. **Air Quality**

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

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary increase in noise would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Proposed activities would have no impact on 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: No notification needed. The proposed work would take place on BPA fee-owned property.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping  
Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4

Date: May 25, 2018