

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Verizon Fiber Optic Cable Installation at Bonneville-Ross No.2, Tower 30/4, Evergreen, Vancouver, Washington

**Project Manager:** Chuck Wedick TELP-TPP3

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4. 9 Multiple Use of Transmission Line Rights-of-Way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Verizon Inc. to upgrade their existing fiber line at the Evergreen site which is located on the North Bonneville-Ross #2 line, tower 30/4 on BPA-owned land in Clark County, Washington. Verizon proposes to:

- install one hand-hole over existing 4-inch conduit
- install new underground conduits in a narrow trench
- install three smooth inner ducts
- install fiber jumper and bring fiber through installed duct structures at the site

**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/ Douglas Corkran

Douglas Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Attachment: Environmental Checklist

Date: June 27, 2018

# 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:

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### Project Site Description

The proposed project area is located on a BPA fee-owned parcel of land associated with the North Bonneville-Ross number 2 line, tower 30/2 in Vancouver, Washington. The area around the tower is used for recreational purposes, including volleyball. The tower is situated on the side of a busy road and it is not in a residential area.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Cultural resource surveys did not find any cultural resources. The transmission line is part of the Historic BPA Pacific Northwest Transmission System, but would not be adversely affected by the project. The WA SHPO and Cowlitz Tribes were consulted. Concurrence on no adverse effect determination was received from SHPO on May 29, 2018, and the Cowlitz tribe has not responded within the 30-day comment period, which ended on June 24, 2018. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would cause only minor disturbance to soils from trenching operations. The trench would be filled in immediately following construction, and no erosion is anticipated as the land is flat. No impacts to soils are expected from the project.		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work is being done in existing BPA fee-owned right of way. The nearest listed plants are approximately 2 miles away and work is being performed on a site that is heavily disturbed and actively mowed. Minimal disturbance to existing vegetation would occur, and no significant impacts to plants are expected.		
<b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The site is located in a heavily urbanized, previously disturbed, mowed right-of way, with no wildlife habitat present. No special-status species are known to occur in the project area. Because no wildlife habitat is present, no impacts to wildlife are expected.		
<b>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There is no connection to waterways, and the worksite is flat and situated in a highly urbanized upland area. No waterbodies or floodplains are present at or near the project site. No impacts to waterbodies, floodplains, or fish are expected.		
<b>6. Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The site is located in an upland area with no evidence of wetlands in or around it. No impacts to		

wetlands are expected.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would involve subsurface work, but no pollutants and hazardous material are expected to be released that could impact any aquifers. Any oil or hydraulic fluid spills would be cleaned up immediately and all contaminated soils removed. Therefore, groundwater and aquifers are not likely to be impacted by this project.

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



Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to land use as the project site is located in an active transmission line right of way with an existing fiber-optic line as well. No impacts to land use or specially designated areas are expected.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality in this area and most of the work would be performed underground. No impacts to visual quality are expected.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amounts of short-term dust and vehicle emissions would be released during construction activities. There would be very minimal impact to air quality for a short period of time. No significant impacts to air quality are expected.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The site is next to a major four-lane arterial road with a lot of traffic noise. There would be no long-term increase in noise due to this project. Significant impacts from noise are not expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The project would be mostly underground and the above-ground facilities would be similar to other equipment located in the area. No hazardous materials would be used or stored long-term in the area. No impacts to human health and safety are 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA owns the property. There is a four-lane road to the north, and an industrial property to the south and west of the project area. Adjacent landowners will be notified of the project prior to construction.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran  
Douglas Corkran - ECT-4

Date: June 27, 2018