

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: King County Property Transfer

Project Manager: Wendy Jansen – TERR-Olympia

Location: King County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to sell a 40-acre parcel located in King County, Washington to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as mitigation for encumbering a parcel in Columbia County, Washington with a transmission line easement.

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/ Tish Eaton

Tish Eaton
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: August 6, 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.

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Project Site Description

The 40-acre parcel (part of a larger BPA-owned parcel) is forested with moderate to somewhat steep slopes throughout. The parcel is bordered on the east by WDNR's Raging River State Forest and to the south and west by the City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed. The area is closed to the public and there are no structures and few roads on the parcel.

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 has determined that no historic properties will be affected as a result of the property transfer. Washington Department of Historic Preservation concurred with this determination on August 1, 2018.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Two non-fish bearing perennial streams cross through the parcel. No disturbance to these waterbodies is proposed.		
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> No ground disturbance proposed.		

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

Explanation: Historically the larger BPA-owned parcel was used for forestry activities prior to BPA's purchase in 2002. BPA purchased the parcel in 2002 as mitigation for the Kangley-Echo Lake transmission line project. At that time BPA agreed that if any part of the parcel was sold, the buyer would grant BPA a conservation easement. To comply with this requirement, WDNR is granting BPA a conservation easement upon completion of the property transfer. Landownership would transfer to WDNR, but the land use would remain unchanged. The 40-acre parcel would be managed by WDNR in the same manner as described in the Raging River North and West Forest Stewardship Plan and WDNR's Habitat Conservation Plan.

No specially designated areas are present on the 40-acre parcel.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No impact.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No impact.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No impact.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact.

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: None required.

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

Signed: /s/ Tish Eaton
Tish Eaton, ECT-4

Date: August 6, 2018