

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Clark Regional Wastewater District Sewer Line Installation

LURR No's.: 20180193 and 20180194

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert

Location: Clark 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 Clark Regional Wastewater District (District) to install a 1,925-foot section of an 8-inch sewer force main on its Ross-Lexington No. 1 fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) in Clark County, Washington. Most of the force main would parallel an existing sewer line in the District's existing utility easement corridor. A portion, 395-feet, of the force main would be installed within an existing asphalt road.

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/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: October 18, 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 project site is located in BPA’s Ross-Lexington transmission line right-of-way in Clark County, Washington. Most of the project site is a vacant field that is maintained by mowing. A small portion of the sewer would be within an existing asphalt road, NE 159th Street.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA’s archaeologist determined that the sewer line installation would have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. On September 12, 2018, the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation concurred with this determination. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe was also consulted regarding the project, but BPA did not receive responses from them on project initiation or on BPA’s determination of no effect.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> ✓ Treat potential discoveries of archeological materials with the ‘inadvertent discovery’ guidelines: Stop work, contact BPA ECT lead and BPA ECC archeologist for further notifications, and ensure integrity of site and materials until further instructions.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 1,925 linear feet of trenching would be done. The trench would be a few feet deep, excavated soil would be placed back into the trench or hauled to an appropriate off-site disposal area, and the site will be fully restored.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Erosion and sediment control best management practices would be implemented.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Trenching would result in temporary disturbance to grasses and other herbaceous species. No special-status species are known to occur at the site. Native grass seed will be planted to restore the area.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are known to occur at or near the site. The project area is an existing transmission ROW and street ROW, comprised of either mowed grasses or asphalt. In addition, The Wetland and Habitat Review Program for Clark County concurred in February 2018 that no impacts to habitat would occur by this project.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**
(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)

Explanation: The force main would cross Mill Creek and the associated riparian corridor within an existing road and bridge; no in-water work would be required. Mill Creek supports threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead species; however, no impacts to Mill Creek are anticipated.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project site other than those associated with Mill Creek. No impacts are anticipated. In addition, The Wetland and Habitat Review Program for Clark County concurred in February 2018 that no impacts to wetlands would occur by this project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Trenching would be shallow and no impacts to groundwater or aquifers are anticipated.

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

Explanation: The project area is an existing transmission ROW and city road ROW. This project is consistent with the existing land use practices and no long term impacts are anticipated.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Trenching would result in a temporary removal of low-growing vegetation.

Note: Impacted areas would be revegetated with native grasses after trenching is complete.

10. **Air Quality**

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

11. **Noise**

Explanation: A temporary increase in noise would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impacts to human health are anticipated.

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: Proposed work would occur on BPA fee-owned ROW. Clark Regional Wastewater District is working with adjacent landowners as appropriate.

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

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum
Michael Henjum
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: October 18, 2018