

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Clark County Public Works Blair Road Reconstruction

Project Manager: Bryant Cheong – TERR-3

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: Clark County Public Works plans to improve Blair Road with new asphalt and wider shoulders where it crosses under BPA's North Bonneville-Vancouver transmission lines. Most of this work will take place within Clark County's existing right-of-way, except for a small area (several hundred square feet) of BPA-fee-owned property where Clark County plans to reconnect an existing driveway to Blair Road with an asphalt approach to match the Blair Road grade.

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 F. Corkran

Douglas F. Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 13, 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 area is located adjacent to Blair Road under BPA's transmission lines, surrounded by a grassy field. No trees or shrubs are present in or adjacent to the project area.

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> The project area was previously surveyed in 2016 with no cultural resources identified. Cultural resources staff indicated that the site has been completely modified by Blair Road, the driveway, and BPA's transmission lines, with no potential for impacts to cultural resources. Thus, no Section 106 Consultation is warranted.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The existing gravel driveway approach will be paved. There will be no new potential for runoff or sedimentation.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is existing gravel driveway, with no vegetation. No plants will be removed.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wildlife species will be adversely affected by the project because there is no habitat within or adjacent to the project area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no water bodies in or near the project area.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands in or near the project area.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area will be paved but will not increase runoff because the existing surface is already compacted gravel.		

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



Explanation: No land uses will change. The driveway approach will simply be paved instead of gravel.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No changes to visual quality will occur with the exception of a slightly larger paved area of driveway approach.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Some negligible short-term dust and emissions will occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some minor short-term construction noise will occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The improved road and driveway approach should improve traffic 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: N/A

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas F. Corkran
Douglas F. Corkran – ECT-4

Date: November 13, 2018