

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Taylor Garden Land Use Review Request 20180385

**Project Manager:** Bryant Cheong

**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:** BPA proposes to allow Jerry and Rhonda Taylor to install a hedge, 10 x 40-foot garden area, and 10 x 10-foot non-permanent shed on BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) in Clark County, WA that crosses under BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 lines between structures 29/2 and 29/3.

**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: January 22, 2019

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.

**Proposed Action:** Taylor Garden Land Use Review Request 20180385. The Taylors propose to use a portion of BPA ROW adjacent to their property for a small garden plot, surrounding hedge, and non-permanent shed.

## Project Site Description

The project is located in southwestern Washington, in Clark County, just east of Vancouver. The area is flat suburban land with residences adjacent to the ROW. The ROW is a heavily disturbed open field that is periodically mowed.

## 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Over 24 cultural resource surveys have been conducted in the area and no cultural or historic resources were identified in or near the project area. The ROW in this area has been leveled and the ground surface extensively modified. After reviewing the cultural resource surveys, BPA's cultural resource department has determined that no historic properties would be affected.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Very minor ground-disturbing work would take place to install a garden plot within the project area. Impacts to soils within the work area would be minimal and surrounding soils and geology would not be affected by the project.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW that seems to be periodically mowed for hay. No plants would be affected by the project.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW that seems to be periodically mowed for hay. Wildlife habitat is very low quality in the project area and project activities would have only very minor noise-related impacts to common wildlife species during construction. No sensitive or listed wildlife species are documented in or adjacent to the project area. Wildlife species would not be adversely affected by the project.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW in an upland area. No streams, rivers, lakes, or other waterbodies are nearby. No water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected by the project.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW, with no wetlands in or near the project area. No wetlands would be affected by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW. There is no evidence of shallow groundwater. No spills of gas, diesel, or hydraulic fluid are expected from the proposed use; thus, no pollutants would reach groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: The project would not change the general land use of the area (suburban residential and transmission line ROW); it would continue to be used as transmission line ROW but would include a small garden plot, hedge, and shed.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The addition of a garden plot, hedge, and shed would slightly change the appearance of the area, but there are similar suburban structures and vegetation associated with the residences on either side of the project area. There would be no adverse impacts to visual quality as a result of the project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project is a small use of BPA ROW for gardening purposes, with little to no release of dust or other pollutants. No long-term or permanent impacts to air quality would result from the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is an extension of existing suburban land uses. Gardening and construction of a small shed would not change existing noise conditions; thus, there are no noise-related impacts due to the project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No new health or safety risks would be caused by the project. The type of work in the ROW and the vegetation planted would not surpass the minimum distance for safe operation of the transmission line. The project would have no adverse impacts to 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: None proposed.

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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 F. Corkran  
Douglas F. Corkran - ECT-4

Date: January 22, 2019