

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Brasada-Harney-No.1 Easement Acquisition

Project Manager: Rasha Kroonen—TEPS-TPP-1

Location: Harney County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to acquire additional right-of-way (ROW) easement along the Brasada-Harney-No. 1 transmission line to support future interconnection projects. The ROW easement acquisition would occur in the 84 mile and 113 mile of the line. Each area would consist of a 60-foot by 70-foot acquisition of additional ROW, adjacent to the existing ROW.

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, Jul. 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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 31, 2019

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 locations are in Harney County, Washington, adjacent to BPA's Brasada-Harney-No. 1 transmission line. The sites are in Section 23, Township 23 South, Range 25 East; and Section 4, Township 24 South, Range 30 East. Both locations are in shrub-steppe habitat and mostly undeveloped except for the transmission line corridor and nearby access roads.

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> There would be no construction or ground disturbance associated with acquiring the additional ROW easements; therefore, there is no potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no ground disturbance associated with acquiring additional ROW easements; therefore, there would be no effects to geology or soils.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The easement acquisition areas do not have any special-status plants; therefore, there would be no impact to Federal or state special-status plants.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no known occurrences of special-status wildlife in the easement acquisition areas. Additionally, there would be no construction or ground disturbance associated with acquiring additional easement; therefore, there would be no impact to wildlife.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish present in, or near, the additional easement areas.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands in the easement acquisition areas.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no construction or ground disturbance associated with acquiring additional easement; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater and aquifers.		

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



Explanation: The existing land use as a transmission ROW would be extended into the additional easement areas. There are no specially-designated areas in the vicinity.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The visual quality would not change as a result of this action.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The air quality would not change as a result of this action.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: There would be no noise impacts.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The easement acquisition would not affect human 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA Realty staff would work closely with the underlying landowners to acquire the additional easement.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Date: May 31, 2019

Beth Belanger—ECT-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC