

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Clark Public Utility District Electric Service Line Installation on North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 Right-of-Way

**Project No.:** LURR-20190138

**Project Manager:** Charlene Belt – TERR-3

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**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) proposes to allow Clark Public Utility District (Clark PUD) to install underground electric service lines on BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) between structures 27/4 and 27/5 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines near Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. All project work on BPA fee-owned property would take place approximately four feet below the ground surface. Clark PUD would excavate bore pits off the BPA ROW and conduct a single, 14-inch diameter subsurface directional bore approximately 400 feet under the ROW. Three, 4-inch conduits each with one 1,000 MCM aluminum conductor would be then installed in the bore.

The project would not require any materials or heavy equipment staging, vegetation removal, or disturbance of surficial soils on BPA fee-owned property.

**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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Salient CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol P. Leiter

Carol P. Leiter  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Kate Grange                      Date: January 3, 2020

Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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 within Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) fee-owned North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line right-of-way (ROW), between structures 27/4 and 27/5 near Vancouver, Clark County, Washington (Sections 29 and 30, Township 2 North, Range 1 East). Project activities would be carried out along the east side of NE 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, where it crosses through the ROW. The project area is disturbed and of low ecological quality, with ground cover consisting of regularly mowed bunchy native and non-native herbaceous species. Within the ROW, grass athletic fields are located west of the project site, while the area to the east is maintained as open ROW with low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Outside of the ROW, the surrounding area is a mix of urban commercial and residential development. There are no wetlands or surface water bodies mapped within 1,000 feet of the project site.

## 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> The BPA archaeologist completed background research and an intensive field survey of the proposed project area and determined that the actions would result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. No previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the vicinity of the project site, and the archaeological field survey similarly found no archaeological resources. Two historic properties were identified within the ROW: the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines. However, the proposed activities would not diminish any of the standards under which they are considered eligible and would not result in an adverse effect.</p> <p>Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the Environmental Protection Specialist should be notified immediately.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground disturbing activities on BPA fee-owned property would occur exclusively below the ground surface and would consist of boring north-south along NE 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. No other soil disturbance or excavation would occur on BPA property. Clark PUD and its delegates would implement best management practices (BMPs) to address temporary erosion and sediment control.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No tree or vegetation removal is proposed. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species or plant species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to protected plant species.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: Temporary disruption of normal wildlife behavior could occur from elevated noise and human presence during project implementation. However, wildlife species that may be present in the area are likely already habituated to human activity, including vehicle traffic and other activities associated with urban commercial and residential development. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status wildlife species or wildlife species protected under the Federal ESA, and no such species or suitable habitat are expected to occur at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to protected wildlife species.

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



Explanation: The project site is not in or near any mapped waterbodies or floodplains, and there are no special-status fish species. Clark PUD and its delegates would implement temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs to prevent the transport of sediment into nearby water bodies. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to these resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project site is not in or near any mapped wetlands. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Soil disturbance could reach depths to groundwater or aquifers. Clark PUD and its delegates would implement BMPs to reduce the potential for inadvertent spills of hazardous materials that could enter groundwater and aquifers. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to these resources.

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



Explanation: There would be no change in land use at the project site. No specially-designated areas are in the vicinity of the project site.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be change in visual quality at the project site.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during project implementation. There would be no long-term changes in air quality following completion of the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Project-related noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. There would be no long-term changes in noise levels following completion of the project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts to human health or safety are expected as a result of project activities.

### **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: The project site is on BPA fee-owned property. Adjacent landowners and ROW easement lessees would be notified of the upcoming project by BPA. Additionally, the Land Use Agreement would direct Clark PUD to coordinate with landowners.

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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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Salient CRGT

Date: January 3, 2020