

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Water Meter and Line Installation at S. Thayer Road

Project No.: LURR 20190338

Project Manager: Charlene Belt TERR-ROSS MHQA

Location: Clackamas County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of power line rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to allow the installation of a water line and a corresponding water meter in BPA's fee-owned right-of-way off of S. Thayer Road in the 10/1-10/3 section of the Ostrander-McLoughlin No. 1 transmission line. Specifically, the proposed actions include:

- **Installation of a water meter** along S. Thayer road approximately 36 feet from the edge of the adjacent property owners' driveway within BPA fee-owned ROW.
- **Installation of a water line** to run between the proposed water meter and a mobile home on adjacent property owners' land. The waterline would be trenched using a small excavator. The trench would be approximately 2 feet wide and 3 feet deep and would run approximately 525 feet in length. The proposed water line would run parallel and west of the mobile home driveway and along BPA fee-owned 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/ Kathryn Duvall

Kathryn Duvall
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 3, 2020

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: Water Meter Installation at S. Thayer Road

Project Site Description

The project area is located in a semi-rural area located just outside of Oregon City city limits. The proposed site of the water line installation on BPA ROW is a grassy area, managed by BPA. Shrubs and trees border the ROW, as well as flat and open fields. There are no water ways on 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural survey was conducted for the LURR 20190338 Install Water Meter and Line project. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by the undertaking. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurred with BPA's No Historic Properties Affected determination for the undertaking on January 22, 2020.</p> <p>In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the Cultural and Environmental Project Leads would be immediately notified. BPA's Inadvertent Discovery Procedure shall be implemented.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground disturbance and temporary removal of soil in excavation area would occur, but no long term effects are expected from ground disturbance. No foreseen potential for erosion or permanent impacts.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species exist in the project area. Approximately 1,050 square feet of surface vegetation would be removed, mostly grass and non-native/invasive plants. Temporary plant disturbance would also occur in project area from construction activity. No expected permanent impact to plants.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' IPaC consultation, no special-status habitat or species are indicated to be present in the project area. Noise from construction activities may temporarily disturb animals living in nearby trees or bushes, but there is no expected significant impact to any species or habitat.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: There are no bodies of water in the project area. There is an unnamed, seasonal stream possibly used by steelhead and Coho salmon for spawning and rearing located approximately 700 feet from the project site; however, project activities are not expected to have an impact outside of the project area. Therefore, no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish are expected.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are located in the project area or in close proximity to the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or groundwater use would occur. Estimated depth to groundwater in project area ranges from 28-35 feet, so three-foot deep excavation is not expected to have any impact on groundwater.

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



Explanation: No land use or specially-designated area concerns.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No expected impact to visual quality. Water line would be buried and not visible. Water meter would be very small and would not impact visuals.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary increase in emissions from construction site activities would occur, but no permanent changes in air quality are expected.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise from construction activities would occur in the area, but significant noise impacts are not expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No expected impacts to human health and safety. No expected soil contamination.

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: Project area is on BPA fee-owned property.

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

Signed: /s/ Kathryn Duvall
Kathryn Duvall
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University

Date: February 3, 2020