

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Installation of New Sewer Line and Habitat Enhancement in BPA ROW by Clean Water Services

**Project No.:** LURR 20190260

**Project Manager:** Jim Clark - TERR - CHEMAWA

**Location:** Washington County, OR

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way; B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Clean Water Services to move their existing concrete sewer line within BPA's Right of Way on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City Stub 6/10-20/7 Section transmission lines. The sewer line would cross BPA's ROW in section 10/11-10/12 on the Oregon City Stub 6/10-20/7 Section line and section 9/11-9/12 on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 line. Additionally, Clean Water Services has identified a habitat enhancement area on the eastern bank of the Cedar Mill Creek which runs through BPA's ROW directly north of the project area. Specifically, Clean Water Services proposes to:

- **Install a new sewer line** with a diameter of 4 feet at a depth of 17 feet below ground surface. The construction area would take place in a 100-foot by 80-foot area with no excavation occurring within 25 feet of BPA transmission line poles. However, other activities, including, but not limited to staging, construction traffic, or erosion control may take place within those 25 feet. Construction access would be through a parking lot located directly south of the construction site. The construction area is a grassy area managed by BPA and does not host any special vegetation.
- **Improve habitat** on the eastern bank of the Cedar Mill Creek directly north of the project area between sections 10/10-10/11 of the Oregon City Stub 6/10-20/7 Section line and 9/10-9/11 of the Keeler-Oregon City 2 line. The habitat enhancement would include sloping back the eastern bank of the Cedar Mill Creek and installing large wood without changing the hydraulic capacity of the stream. The bank of the creek would be revegetated, as well as work to control non-native and invasive vegetation, planting of native bare root and plug plants in accordance with BPA best management practices, and maintaining plantings through controlling invasive and non-native vegetation with cutting, herbicide application, or other techniques.

**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: [delete this section if BFTE]

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 25, 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:** Installation of New Sewer Line and Habitat Enhancement in BPA ROW by Clean Water Services

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## Project Site Description

The project area lies within BPA's Right of Way on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City Stub 6/10-20/7 Section transmission lines in an area mostly made up of industrial and commercial businesses. The project site lies between SW 153<sup>rd</sup> Drive to the east, SW Jenkins Road to the north, and commercial and industrial buildings to the west and south. The project site is a small, cleared grassy area with Cedar Mill Creek running on the edge of the project site to the northwest. Trees border the BPA ROW directly to the east and west of the project area.

## 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, an intensive field survey, and subsurface testing of the APE and determined that the actions would result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. No previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the APE, and the archaeological field survey similarly found no archaeological resources. Two historic properties were identified within the ROW: the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 Transmission Line and the Oregon City Stub C 6/10-20/7 Transmission Line. Only the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 Transmission Line is eligible for listing on to the National Register of Historic Places; however, the proposed activities would not diminish any of the standards under which it is 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 and the Cultural Resource Specialist should be notified immediately. No additional review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required for this action at this time.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There would be ground disturbance from excavation and placement of sewer line. Revegetation of excavation area and habitat enhancement area would be done to mitigate impacts of soil disturbance. Revegetation on Cedar Mill Creek would also occur to mitigate erosion in habitat enhancement area.</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 special-status plants exist in the project area. Revegetation would follow BPA BMPs for plant selection and placement. Non-native and invasive plants would be controlled using cutting, herbicides, or other BPA-approved measures.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal or state-listed species or habitat are present in the excavation area. No expected impact on wildlife or its habitat.</p>		

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



Explanation: The adjacent creek, Cedar Mill Creek, is listed as a possible winter time run for steelhead. All work would be seasonally timed to avoid any possible impact on steelhead or their habitat.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There would be no impacts to wetlands from this project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; depth of disturbance would be about 17 feet and is not anticipated to draw down groundwater levels.

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



Explanation: No change to existing land use is proposed. Project is occurring in BPA fee-owned ROW.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No permanent impact to visual quality is expected. Enhancement work would slightly change the visuals of the area around the stream, but no significant impacts to visual quality are expected.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Emissions would temporarily increase in the area due to construction traffic and machinery, but permanent effects to air quality are not expected.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise from construction traffic, machinery, and staging is expected only during time of construction. There would be no permanent noise impacts in the area.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts on human health and safety are expected due to 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: N/A

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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/ Kathryn Duvall  
Kathryn Duvall  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Portland State University

Date: February 25, 2020