

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Sifton No. 2 Transmission Lines Electric Service Line Installation

LURR No.: 20210026

Project Manager: Charlene Belt – Ross MHQA

Location: Clark County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline right-of-ways

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Public Utility District No. 1 of Clark County (Clark Public Utilities) to install a new underground electric service line on BPA right-of-way property in Clark County, Washington. The project site is located between structures 25/4 and 25/3 on the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 transmission line and structures 25/4 and 25/3 on the North Bonneville-Sifton No. 2 transmission line. The purpose of the project is to accommodate a portion of Clark Public Utilities' project to replace a total of 5,200 feet of failing underground cable in this rural residential neighborhood.

Specifically, Clark Public Utilities contractors would install a new approximately 315-foot-long 7.2kV underground electric service line jacketed in two-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduit along the eastern side of the existing NE Weakley Road using directional boring equipment. The new line would be installed at a depth of three feet six inches to five feet.

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/ Ronald "RJ" Theofield

Ronald "RJ" Theofield
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>January 19, 2021</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
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.

Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Sifton No. 2 Transmission Lines Electric Service Line Installation

Project Site Description

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned property between structures 25/4 and 25/3 on the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 transmission line and structures 25/4 and 25/3 on the North Bonneville-Sifton No. 2 transmission line in Clark County, Washington. It is located in Township 2 North, Range 3 East, and Section 27. The site abuts the east side of NE Weakley Road and is currently comprised of native and nonnative grasses. The surrounding area consists of primarily agricultural and rural residential land uses. There are no wetlands or surface waters within or nearby the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Because the proposed work is in an area that was completely modified and artificially leveled during the construction of transmission lines and the adjacent roadway, a BPA archaeologist determined on January 12, 2021, that the proposed project is an undertaking, but no historic properties would be affected.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be a small amount of soil disturbance for the installation of the new underground service line.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No vegetation removal would occur during this project. Disturbance would be limited to the entrance and exit bore pits that are located outside of BPA right-of-way. There are no special-status species or habitats known to occur within a mile of the site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in previously disturbed and maintained areas. No special-status species are present or known to occur at the project site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies are present within one-half mile of the project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed. The maximum depth of disturbance would be about 42 to 60 inches and would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

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

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new electrical line would be underground, thus the area would look similar to the existing condition after installation.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Short-term dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No long-term impacts are anticipated.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No human health or safety impacts are anticipated.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Clark Public Utilities would notify adjacent landowners of the project via mailings.

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

Signed: /s/ Ronald "RJ" Theofield January 19, 2021
Ronald "RJ" Theofield, ECT-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University