

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Portland General Electric Lines

Project No.: LURR 20230078

Project Manager: Candias Davis, TERR-CHEMAWA

Location: Washington County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) proposes to allow applicant to remove up to two overhead lines and install up to two new underground lines in 4" conduit at a depth of 3-6 feet. Directional boring would be used or open trenching if necessary for rocky soils. Applicant would be responsible for reseeding any disturbed grass area or replacing any disturbed access road. The area for the line in the right of way is about 110 feet south of Structure 13/2 of the BPA Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 Transmission Line.

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/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>August 30, 2023</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.

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Project Site Description

The work for this LURR, including the installation of the line, would be on maintained BPA right-of-way. The project area consists of mostly grass that is managed to be maintained as low-growing vegetation with a 17-foot wide gravel access road. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat areas with neighboring parcels comprised of suburban home sites and development and some green forested areas. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. Johnston Creek is located about 2,000 feet northwest of the site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some soil disturbance for installation of the underground line by trenching or underground boring. The work is occurring in the established BPA right-of-way.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would be occurring in the BPA right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. There are no listed or special-status species present. Applicant would be responsible for reseeding any disturbed grass area with native-seed mix ideally friendly to pollinators.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would be in established BPA right-of-way. No trees would be removed, and the site is not identified to provide northern spotted owl habitat or nesting sites. Installation of the line expected to occur during daytime hours with limited effect to wildlife. Limited to no effects are expected to any listed or special-status species.

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 at the site. Johnston Creek is located over 2,000 feet northwest of the project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The shallow digging for the project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impact to the right-of-way. Disturbed areas would be reseeded or repaired to previous condition.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts expected.

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: BPA Realty is in coordination with Portland General Electric.

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

Signed: /s/ Chris Furey August 30, 2023
Christopher Furey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist