

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** PacifiCorp Fiber Installation at Hood River Substation Property

**Project No.:** LURR 20240231

**Project Manager:** Brent Leslie, TERR-THE DALLES

**Location:** Hood River County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.7 Fiber optic cable

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow PacifiCorp to install a fiber conduit on BPA's Hood River Substation fee-owned property in Hood River, Oregon. PacifiCorp would install the conduit in an approximate 50-foot-long by 3-foot-wide by 3-foot-deep trench that would connect to PacifiCorp's existing fiber vault on the property. No staging areas or access road work would be required.

**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.

Beth Belanger  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment: 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: PacifiCorp Fiber Installation at Hood River Substation Property**

### **Project Site Description**

The project is located in Hood River County, Oregon, approximately 1.8 miles south of the Columbia River. The project area is in Section 2 of Township 2 North, Range 10 East and is located in a vegetated strip between the shoulder of Tucker Road and the Hood River Substation. The vegetation consists of non-native sod-grass. The nearest stream is 0.25 miles to the east.

### **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

#### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist determined that the proposed project would have no effect on historic or cultural resources. On August 26, 2024, BPA sent a determination letter of no effect to the following consulting parties: Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. To date, no responses have been received from any of the consulting parties.

#### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The maximum depth of disturbance would be 3 feet deep. Excavated soil would be used to backfill the trench after the fiber has been installed. There would be no long-term impacts to geology and soil.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal or state special-status species or habitats within the project area. Sod in the trenching area would be revegetated.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to Federal or state special-status species or habitats. The project is adjacent to a busy roadway and is unlikely location to be used by wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or Federal or state special-status species that would be impacted by the project.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not occur in or near any wetlands.

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The minimal depth of disturbance has no potential to impact groundwater or aquifers. The project is forty miles east of the Troutdale Aquifer System.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not change the land use at the site. The project area is not in any specially-designated areas.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no changes to the visual quality of the location after the fiber installation has been completed.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no substantial changes to air quality during or after construction.

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Fiber installation would not impact human health or safety. If necessary, a flagger would be used to pause traffic during fiber installation.

### **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: The project area is on BPA fee-owned land. There are no adjacent properties that would require landowner notification or coordination.

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

Signed:

Beth Belanger  
Environmental Protection Specialist