

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Snohomish County 43rd Avenue SE Roundabout Construction

Project No.: LURR-20190352

Project Manager: Patrick N. Munyua, TERR-SNOHOMISH

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers; B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to transfer ownership of BPA fee-owned property to Snohomish County Department of Public Works (Snohomish County). BPA also proposes to grant a temporary construction easement on an additional BPA fee-owned parcel near Sno-King Substation in Snohomish, Snohomish County, Washington (Township 27 North, Range 5 East, Section 21). The request is part of a Snohomish County project to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Maltby Road and 43rd Avenue SE.

BPA would transfer approximately 1,800 square feet (0.041 acres) immediately north of Maltby Road and west of 43rd Avenue SE. The temporary construction easement would include approximately 8,100 square feet (0.19 acres) of BPA fee-owned property along the southern margin of Maltby Road. Within the temporary construction easement, Snohomish County would clear vegetation and grade to provide adequate space for vehicles and heavy equipment to maneuver and to stage materials and equipment during construction of the roundabout. The proposed activities would temporarily disturb approximately 8,100 square feet (0.19 acres).

Snohomish County would also relocate an existing BPA approach and gated entrance on the south side of Maltby Road that currently provides access to BPA transmission towers on the Sno-King tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 transmission line. A new 20-foot-wide approach and gated entrance would be constructed approximately 260 feet east of the existing approach. Snohomish County would also construct a new approximately 200-foot-long by 16-foot-wide access road to structure 13/3 on the Sno-King tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 transmission line. The proposed activities would permanently gravel approximately 3,200 square feet (0.07 acres) and would temporarily disturb up to an additional 6,800 square feet (0.16 acres).

Following completion of the roundabout and new access road, temporarily disturbed areas would be reseeded with a regionally-appropriate native seed mix.

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/ W. Walker Stinnette
W. Walker Stinnette
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>September 9, 2022</u>
Katey C. Grange	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: Snohomish County 43rd Avenue SE Roundabout Construction

Project Site Description

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned property near Sno-King Substation in Snohomish, Snohomish County, Washington (Township 27 North, Range 5 East, Section 21). The site includes the parcel that Snohomish County would acquire from BPA located immediately north of Maltby Road and west of 43rd Avenue SE as well as the temporary construction easement and the new access road construction area, which are both located south of Maltby Road within the Sno-King tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 transmission line right-of-way. Ground disturbance would occur in areas currently vegetated with common native and non-native grasses, shrubs, and trees. The entire project site is underlain by the Alderwood soil series, which is not hydric. No wetlands or surface water are present within or near the project site. Areas surrounding the project site primarily consists of low-density, single family residential properties with some commercial properties.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: BPA conducted background research of the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The majority of the APE has been previously surveyed, and no archaeological sites have been recorded within one mile. BPA's Bothell-Sno-King No. 1 transmission line is located within the APE and is considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, the proposed undertaking would not alter the integrity or eligibility of the transmission line. Therefore on April 28, 2022, BPA simultaneously determined that the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties (BPA CR Project No.: WA 2020 130; DAHP Log No.: 2022-04-02721-BPA) and initiated National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation with the following parties:

- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- The Tulalip Tribes
- Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP)

Following the initial Section 106 consultation period, the scope of the proposed undertaking was expanded to include the installation of the new approach, gated entrance, and gravel access road. The amended APE was previously surveyed, and no cultural resources were identified. BPA's Sno-King tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 transmission line is located within the amended APE and is considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. However, the proposed undertaking would not alter the integrity or eligibility of the transmission line. Therefore on July 7, 2022, BPA simultaneously determined that the proposed amended undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties and re-initiated Section

106 consultation with the parties listed above. On July 7, 2022, DHAP concurred with BPA's determination. No other comments were received.

Notes:

- Implement inadvertent discovery protocols in the unlikely event that cultural material is encountered during the implementation of this project. BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new approach and gravel access road would permanently compact and gravel approximately 3,200 square feet (0.07 acres). Approximately 8,100 square feet (0.19 acres) of temporary soil disturbance would occur from vegetation removal and grading along the southern margin of Maltby Road. Installation of the new approach, gated entrance, and gravel access road would result in temporary soil compaction and rutting due to vehicle and equipment use within approximately 6,800 square feet (0.16 acres). Temporarily disturbed soils would stabilize as vegetation is reestablished following completion of construction. Standard construction best management practices would minimize erosion and sedimentation. The proposed action would not impact geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Approximately 3,200 square feet (0.07 acres) of permanent vegetation impacts would occur where the new approach, gated entrance, and gravel access road would permanently cover vegetated areas in gravel. Additional activities related to the construction of the access road could temporarily crush, strip, and/or bury vegetation in up to approximately 6,800 square feet (0.16 acres). Approximately 8,100 square feet (0.19 acres) of grass, shrubs, and trees would be temporarily cleared along the southern margin of Maltby Road. Temporary and permanent vegetation impacts would occur in areas currently vegetated with common native and non-native grasses, shrubs, and trees. Temporarily disturbed areas would be reseeded with a regionally-appropriate native seed mix, and standard construction best management practices would minimize vegetation impacts, including the spread of noxious weeds. No special-status plant species have been documented in the vicinity of the project site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would require clearing common native and non-native grasses, shrubs, and trees that are not considered suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species. Minor and temporary disruption of normal wildlife behavior could occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. However, wildlife species that could be present in the area would likely be habituated to this level of disturbance given surrounding land uses. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status wildlife species in the vicinity of 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, floodplains, or fish-bearing streams are present within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on fish species or habitats.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Snohomish County conducted a wetland investigation in December 2019, and no wetlands were identified within the project site on BPA property. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground disturbance is unlikely to reach depths to groundwater and no new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. Standard construction best management practices would prevent contamination in the event of a spill. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new approach, gated entrance, and gravel access road would constitute a permanent land use change. However, this permanent change would occur entirely on BPA fee-owned property and would not impact adjacent land use. The proposed action could temporarily impact adjacent residential land uses due to construction noise. No specially-designated areas would be impacted by the proposed action.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During implementation, the presence of equipment and general construction activities, including vegetation removal and grading, would cause temporary visual impacts. The new paved approach, gated entrance, and gravel access road would permanently change the appearance of the property. However, no above-ground structures are proposed, and temporarily disturbed areas would approximately return to original conditions. These minor changes would be temporary and/or consistent with the existing visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would produce minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. There would be no long-term change in air quality following completion of the proposed action.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action could produce intermittent noise at levels greater than current ambient conditions, which could be audible outdoors on nearby residential properties. Noise impacts would be temporary and would only occur during daylight hours

(approximately 7 AM to 7 PM). There would be no long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the proposed action.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Standard construction best management practices would minimize risk to human health and safety. Therefore, the proposed action would not be expected to impact human health and safety.

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 site is located on BPA fee-owned property, and BPA would notify any other easement holders on the BPA property, if required. Snohomish County would be responsible for any adjacent landowner notification, involvement, or coordination, if required.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette September 9, 2022
W. Walker Stinnette, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist