

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: City of Vancouver Field Survey on North Bonneville-Ross Right-of-Way

Project No.: LURR – 20200052

Project Manager: Charlene Belt – TERR-3

Location: Clark County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the City of Vancouver to conduct a general field survey on BPA fee-owned right-of-way in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. The field survey would consist of identifying topography and above ground features, including trees and shrubs, roadways and driveways, walls, shoulders, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and other utilities infrastructure.

The project would not involve any ground disturbance and would use established access roads. No vegetation removal is proposed.

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
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient CRGT

Reviewed by:
/s/ Carol P. Leiter
Carol P. Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:
/s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer
Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Date: December 17, 2019

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 project site is located on BPA fee-owned North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line right-of-way (ROW), between structures 31/3 and 31/4, in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington (Section 27, Township 2 North, Range 2 East). An access road, which is partially paved and partially graveled, extends south from NE 18th Street and bisects the project site. The project site is currently maintained as a commercial orchard, with fruit trees planted on both sides of the access road. A mix of native and non-native herbaceous species grows along the access road and between the tree rows. Urban residential development abuts the ROW to the north and the south. There are no wetlands or surface waterbodies mapped within 1,000 feet of the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the project area. Two historic properties were identified within the ROW: the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines. However, the proposed activities would not diminish any of the standards under which they are considered eligible and would not result in an adverse effect. Therefore, the proposed project would have No Potential to Effect historic properties.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There would be no impact to geology and soils at the project site.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No tree or vegetation removal is proposed. There are no documented occurrences of any state special-status plant species or plant species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to protected plant species.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minor and temporary disruption of normal wildlife behavior could occur from elevated noise and human presence during the survey. However, wildlife species that may be present in the area are likely already habituated to human activity. There are no documented occurrences of any state special-status wildlife species or wildlife species protected under the Federal ESA, and no such species or suitable habitat are expected to occur at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to protected wildlife species.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: The project site is not in or near any waterbodies or floodplains, and there are no documented occurrences of any state special-status or ESA-listed fish or fish habitat near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to these resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: There would be no impact to groundwater and aquifers at the project site.

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



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**



Explanation: There would be no impact to visual quality at the project site.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Project-related activities would result in minimal to no dust and vehicle emissions in the local area during the survey. There would be no long-term changes in air quality following completion of the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Project-related noise from vehicles and increased human presence would be minor and temporary and would occur during daylight hours. There would be no long-term changes in noise levels following completion of the project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The project would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. No impacts to human health and safety are expected as a result of 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project site on BPA fee-owned property, and BPA would notify ROW easement lessees of the upcoming project. There would be no impact to adjacent landowners

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
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient CRGT

Date: December 17, 2019