

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Comcast Fiber Installation Greenbrier Parkway

**Project No.:** LURR 20190054

**Project Manager:** James Clark – TERR-Chemawa

**Location:** Washington County, OR

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple Use of Powerline Rights-of-Way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to allow Comcast to place a buried fiber optic cable on BPA easement in Beaverton, OR.

The proposed project would be along NW Greenbrier Parkway on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2/Oregon City Stub transmission line right-of-way. Project activities would include trenching and/or boring approximately 100 feet across the ROW along the northern edge of NW Greenbrier Parkway, and installing two 2-inch conduits and coaxial cable at least 36 inches below grade.

**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/ Douglas Corkran

Douglas Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 11, 2019

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 project site is within BPA's Keeler-Oregon City No.2/Oregon City Stub transmission line right of way (ROW), in Beaverton, Oregon. Project activities would be carried out along the north side of NW Greenbrier Parkway, where it crosses through the ROW. The project area is sidewalk and concrete driveway entrance, and is located in an office park and light industrial area. Vegetation is street trees, landscaping, and disturbed, low ecological quality right of way, with ground cover consisting of paved sidewalk, and regularly mowed native and non-native species.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA archaeologist completed background research and a field survey of the proposed project area and determined that the actions would result in <b>No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties</b>. No previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the project area, and the archaeological field survey similarly found no archaeological resources. The two transmission lines were determined to be minimally eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; 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.</p> <p>Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the EC environmental lead should be notified immediately. No additional review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.3 (a)(1)) is required for this proposed action at this time.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Geology and soils within and around the project site were previously disturbed during construction of NW Greenbrier Parkway and the adjacent developments. Ground-disturbing activities would include trenching or boring east-west along NE Greenbrier Parkway. Excavated soils would be temporarily stored on-site, backfilled, and graded to original contours following installation of the new cable. Minor soil compaction may occur due to vehicle and equipment use. Comcast and its delegates would implement best management practices (BMPs) to address temporary erosion and sediment control. A Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist or Certified Professional in Sediment and Erosion Control should be part of erosion and sediment control planning.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project site was previously disturbed during construction of NW Greenbrier Parkway and the adjacent developments. Project-related activities (e.g. vehicle and equipment use, excavation, and trenching) may result in removal of vegetative cover in small areas. There are no documented occurrences of any State special-status plant species or plant species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on protected plant species.</p>		

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



Explanation: Temporary disruption of normal wildlife behavior may occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. There are no documented occurrences of any State special-status wildlife species or wildlife species protected under the Federal ESA. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on protected wildlife species.

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



Explanation: No streams or other water bodies are near the project area. During and after construction activities, Comcast and its delegates would implement erosion and sediment control BMPs to prevent transport of sediment off-site. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on water bodies, floodplains, and special-status fish species.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project site is not in or near any mapped wetlands and none were observed nearby. Comcast and its delegates would implement BMPs for temporary erosion and sediment control. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Geology and soils within and around the project site were previously disturbed during construction of NW Greenbrier Parkway and the adjacent developments. Ground-disturbing activities would include trenching or boring east-west along NE Greenbrier Parkway. Excavated soils would be temporarily stored on-site, backfilled, and graded to original contours following installation of the new cable. Minor soil compaction may occur due to vehicle and equipment use. Comcast and its delegates would implement best management practices (BMPs) to address temporary erosion and sediment control.

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: Installing new fiber optic cables and conduit below ground would not significantly change the visual quality of the area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during construction. There would be no long-term changes in air quality following completion of the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise would be 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: No impacts to human health or 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The Land Use Agreement would direct Comcast to coordinate with adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran  
Douglas Corkran – ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: June 11, 2019