

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Clark PUD Line Removal Crossing of Ross-Lexington No. 1

**Project No.:** 20230030

**Project Manager:** Billie Woodman – TERR-3

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Clark PUD to remove transmission line conductors on one of their 7.2kV distribution lines where it crossed BPA ROW between Towers 7/1 and 7/2 of BPA's Ross-Lexington No. 1 230kV transmission line. The existing conductor and neutral wires would be disconnected from Clark PUD's existing wood transmission poles located outside BPA ROW and would be removed from BPA's ROW. No ground-disturbing work would take place.

**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/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran, ECT-4

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel* *February 28, 2023*

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.

**Proposed Action:** Clark PUD Line Removal Crossing of Ross-Lexington No. 1

## **Project Site Description**

The project would occur along the existing Ross-Lexington No. 1 230kV transmission line ROW corridor extending north from the Ross Substation in Clark County. The location where the proposed work would take place is a gently rolling landscape surrounded by rural residential developments. The area within the ROW is actively farmed for hay.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work would take place. BPA archaeologists made a determination of no potential to cause effects to historic properties on December 14, 2022. No impacts to historic and cultural resources are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work would take place. No impacts to geology and soils are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work would take place. The ROW is planted in hay and/or grass species. No impacts to plants are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status wildlife species or habitats are present. Some common wildlife species may be affected by construction disturbance; however, no significant impacts to any species are anticipated. Overall impacts to wildlife would be low.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in an upland area outside of floodplains and away from streams and other water bodies. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish would occur.

## 6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located in a dry upland area with no wetlands present. No impacts to wetlands would occur.

## 7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground-disturbing work would take place. The proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

## 8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action could briefly impact nearby residential and agricultural land uses due to construction noise, access restrictions, and increased construction traffic. The proposed action would be consistent with current surrounding land uses and no permanent changes in land use would occur on BPA-fee owned property or along the existing transmission line ROW. The proposed action would not impact land use or specially-designated areas.

## 9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, the presence of construction equipment and general construction activities would briefly cause temporary visual impacts. The existing distribution line conductors would be removed, which would reduce visual quality impacts. The proposed action would not impact long-term visual quality.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would cause a minor and temporary increase in fugitive dust and emissions in the local area from general construction activities. Standard construction BMPs would suppress dust. There would be no long-term change in air quality after construction of the proposed action is completed.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, the use of vehicles and equipment, and the performance of general construction activities would temporarily and intermittently produce noise at levels higher than current ambient conditions. Construction-related noise would be audible from properties located near the transmission line, including residential and agricultural properties. There would be no long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the project.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All standard safety protocols would be followed throughout project construction, and standard construction BMPs would minimize risk to human health and safety. The proposed action would have no impact on 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 proposed action would occur on existing BPA fee-owned ROW and substation property. Clark PUD would notify affected property owners as needed.

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

Signed: /s/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

February 28, 2023

Date