

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Vancouver ADA Sidewalk Ramps

Project No.: LURR 20190324

Project Manager: Charlene Belt

Location: Clark County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration proposes to allow Clark County Public Works to remove the existing sidewalk ramps on the north side of the intersection of NE 78th Street and NE 30th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington and replace with ADA pedestrian sidewalk ramps. The sidewalk replacement would be in-kind and not extend beyond the existing sidewalk. The sidewalk ramps are located in the BPA right-of-way of the Ross-Lexington No. 1 Transmission Line between structures 2/3 and 2/4.

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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 23, 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.

Proposed Action: Vancouver ADA Sidewalk Ramps

Project Site Description

The Vancouver ADA Sidewalk Ramps would involve BPA right-of-way in Clark County, WA. The site is comprised of the sidewalk area on the north side of NE 78th Street in Vancouver, WA. The legal parcel is in Township 2 N, Range 1 E, and DC 59. The site is about 200 feet northwest of Structure 2/3 of the BPA Ross-Lexington No. 1 Transmission Line. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat land with neighboring parcels primarily comprised of suburban development, paved parking lots and roadways, and some greenway areas. Salmon Creek is located about 1 mile north of the site and Cougar Canyon Creek is approximately 1.4 miles northwest of the 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> A BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the replacement of the existing sidewalk ramps with ADA sidewalk ramps do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources. This is based on work being conducted in the existing sidewalk and adjacent street area.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There would be minimal soil disturbance for installation of the new ADA sidewalk ramps and repair of the stair landing. The new sidewalk ramps would not involve additional excavation work beyond the removal of the existing sidewalk ramps, with only leveling and re-compacting as necessary.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance beyond the sidewalk ramps is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to plants. There are no federally ESA-listed plants at this location.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The work would occur at a paved suburban intersection located within the BPA right-of-way. Removal of the existing sidewalk ramps and construction of the new ADA sidewalk ramps would occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any ESA-listed or special-status species.</p>		

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

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



Explanation: The site is located over 1 mile south of Salmon Creek and 1.4 miles southeast of Cougar Canyon Creek. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be near the streams.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project site. The closest wetlands are over 1,000 feet to the south of the site and there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The replacement of the sidewalk ramps would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be temporary impacts to traffic and temporary closure of some street area for removal of the existing sidewalk ramps and installation of the new ADA sidewalk ramps.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment. The new ADA sidewalk ramps would use similar material to match the existing sidewalk.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during the removal and replacement of the sidewalk.

Dust would be kept to a minimum in adhering to BMPs for dust control. There would be small, sporadic increases in machine exhaust during active construction work for the sidewalk ramp replacement.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours by use of construction equipment. No ongoing noise increase.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impacts to human health and safety. BPA Engineering would have engineering requirements for the land use request.

Construction equipment shall maintain a minimum distance of 16 feet between the equipment and transmission line conductors at all times. If there is the possibility that any equipment can encroach on this distance, then a safety watcher needs to be required.

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: BPA Realty is in coordination with Clark County Public Works for this project.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: October 23, 2019