

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: First Place Land Use Review Request 20170251

Project Manager: Bryant Cheong

Location: Clark County, WA

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: BPA proposes to allow First Place Neighborhood Association to update the landscaping on an existing traffic circle located on BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) in Clark County, WA that crosses under BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 lines between structures 29/6 and 30/1.

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, July 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 F. Corkran

Douglas F. Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 2, 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: First Place Neighborhood Association Land Use Review Request 20170251. First Place proposes to use a portion of BPA ROW to update the landscaping and plantings in an existing traffic circle on NE 148th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington.

Project Site Description

The project is located in southwestern Washington, in Clark County, just east of the city of Vancouver. The area is flat suburban land with residences adjacent to the ROW. The ROW is heavily disturbed open field that is periodically mowed. The project area would take place within an existing concrete traffic circle in the middle of NE 148th Avenue.

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> The project is located in a heavily disturbed, built up area of road and traffic circle. The ROW in this area has been leveled and the ground surface extensively modified. After reviewing the cultural resource surveys, BPA's cultural resource department has determined that no historic properties would be affected.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Very minor ground-disturbing work would take place to install new landscaping within the project area. The existing traffic circle contains imported soil. Impacts to soils within the work area would be minimal and surrounding soils and geology would not be affected by the project.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed traffic circle that contains suburban landscaping and is heavily maintained. No rare plants would be affected by the project.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed traffic circle and ROW. Wildlife habitat is very low quality in the project area and project activities would have only very minor noise-related impacts to common wildlife species during construction. No sensitive or listed wildlife species are documented in or adjacent to the project area. Wildlife species would not be adversely affected by the project.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW in an upland area. No streams, rivers, lakes, or other waterbodies are nearby. No water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected by the project.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW, with no wetlands in or near the project area. No wetlands would be affected by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The area of disturbance is located within a heavily disturbed ROW. There is no evidence of shallow groundwater. No spills of gas, diesel, or hydraulic fluid are expected from the proposed use; thus, no pollutants would reach groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: The project would not change the general land use of the area (suburban residential and transmission line ROW); it would continue to be used as transmission line ROW and traffic circle.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The addition of new landscaping would slightly change the appearance of the area, but there are similar suburban structures and vegetation associated with the residences on either side of the project area. There would be no adverse impacts to visual quality as a result of the project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project is a small use of BPA ROW for landscaping purposes, with little to no release of dust or other pollutants. No long-term or permanent impacts to air quality would result from the project.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is an extension of existing suburban land uses. Adding new landscaping would not change existing noise conditions and thus, no noise-related impacts due to the project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No new health or safety risks would be caused by the project. The type of work in the ROW and the vegetation planted would not surpass the minimum distance for safe operation of the transmission line. The project would have no adverse impacts to 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, 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: None proposed.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas F. Corkran
Douglas F. Corkran - ECT-4

Date: April 2, 2019