

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Glenmore Access Road Easement

Project No.: LURR 20190002

Project Manager: Michelle Doiron

Location: Snohomish, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration proposes to allow a private landowner/developer to provide BPA new access easements and points of access adjacent to the BPA right-of-way adjacent to the Monroe-Custer No. 1 and No. 2 Transmission Lines in Snohomish County, WA in exchange for BPA releasing existing easements on the subject privately owned Glenmore properties. The existing access easements would be replaced with a new access route consisting of a combination of future public road and a new access easement over a future private joint use driveway and a portion of permanent open space.

BPA right-of-way would not be used for any purposes associated with development of the Glenmore properties. To provide context, development of the Glenmore property would result in public roads, private lots, and permanent open space tracts, some of which include regulated wetlands and streams, being created over the existing access easements. The developer would replace the existing access easements with a combination of paved public roads, a permanent easement over a 20'-wide paved private access road, and a 20' permanent easement through permanent open space surfaced with crushed rock connecting to the existing surface road in the transmission line right-of-way. The developer would also install a gate at an appropriate location within the new easement that is acceptable to BPA and the Snohomish Public Utility District.

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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 28, 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: Glenmore Access Road Easement

Project Site Description

The acquisition and release of easements would be on privately-owned land adjacent to the BPA right-of-way for the Monroe-Custer No. 1 and No. 2 Transmission Lines in Snohomish, WA. The legal parcels are in Township 30 N, Range 6 E, and Sections 4 and 9. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat land with neighboring parcels comprised of some coniferous forested areas, suburban home sites, and some other development. A golf course is located approximately 1,500 feet to the northeast of the project area. Frontier Airpark with a small plane runway is located over 2,200 feet west of the project area. An unnamed stream is located about 300 feet from the easement area. The nearest named water body is Little Pilchuck Creek and is located over 300 feet to the south and west of the easement area.

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 scope of the BPA action involves the acquisition and release of easements with no action on BPA-owned property. An examination of records on file in the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) was conducted to identify previous archaeological investigations performed in or near the area. One survey has been conducted in 1995 for the relocation of a portion of the proposed BPA Murry Substation/Murray-Granite Falls Transmission Line Project. No cultural resources were identified as part of that survey. Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect soils and geology.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect plants or their habitat.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect wildlife or their habitats.</p>		

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



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect groundwater and aquifers.

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



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect land use and specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect existing visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to cause noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Because no ground disturbance or change in use would occur on BPA property, the acquisition and release of easements would not have the potential to affect 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, 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 contact with the private landowner/developer 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: February 28, 2019