

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Peninsula College Lighting

Project No.: LURR 20180001

Project Manager: Wendy Jansen TERR-OLYMPIA

Location: Clallam County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of BPA powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration proposes to allow Peninsula College to install five electric LED street lights along the West Access Road located west of the Port Angeles Substation and east of the college soccer field. The poles would be located within the BPA right-of-way within a 1.03 acre parcel owned by BPA. The light poles would be 30 feet in height and would be made of steel or aluminum, with a concrete base footing at a depth of 5 feet. The base would be installed using a truck-mounted auger operating from the paved access road. The wiring for the poles would be installed to a depth of 24 inches using a trenching machine with connection to an existing electrical box located north of the light pole locations on Peninsula College land.

Use of the mechanical truck-mounted auger to drill holes for the light posts would allow the project to proceed without any excavation into the wetland itself. Soil removed from the auger holes would be stockpiled outside of the wetland or placed directly into dump trucks and removed from the site as quickly as feasible. Other erosion control methods and best management practices would be implemented. To further offset construction impacts, the wetland would be protected by a silt fence during construction.

The light posts would use LED-type lighting for efficient energy use, and lighting would be downward directed to avoid light pollution.

Operational impacts following project completion would be expected to be minimal and not significant. Planting of native plants along the inner buffer zone within 25 feet of the east side of the wetland and west of the soccer field would be done after the light post installation.

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: January 14, 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: Peninsula College Lighting

Project Site Description

The installation of the street lights along the West Access Road would be on maintained BPA right-of-way located east of the Port Angeles Substation and west of the Peninsula College soccer field in Port Angeles, WA. The legal parcel is Township 30 N, Range 6 W, and Section 14. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat land with neighboring parcels comprised of building and parking areas for Peninsula College, some coniferous forested areas, flat suburban home sites, and associated development. A drainage ditch identified as a Category IV wetland is located adjacent to the location where light posts would be installed. The nearest water body is White Creek, which is located approximately 1,650 feet east of the project location, and Peabody Creek, which is located over 3,000 feet west of the project location. The Port Angeles Harbor is over 5,500 feet to the north.

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 for the installation of the lighting do not have the potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.</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 lights and associated wiring. The work would be occurring in the established BPA right-of-way between the West Access Road and Peninsula College soccer field.</p> <p>Soil removed from the auger holes would be placed directly into dump trucks and removed from the project site as quickly as feasible. If stockpiles are necessary, measures to control silt and erosion would be implemented, including covering with plastic if necessary during rain events.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would be occurring within the BPA right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. There are no listed or special-status species present. The project would have limited to no impacts to plants in the adjacent Category IV wetland through use of a silt and dust screen and erosion control practices. Auger equipment to be rinsed and cleaned prior to use to prevent spread of invasive plants.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Installation of the street lighting is expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed or special-status species. Lighting would be LED type and downward directed to minimize light pollution and glare during evening use.</p>		

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



Explanation: The nearest water body is White Creek, which is located approximately 1,650 feet east of the project location, and Peabody Creek, which is located about 3,000 feet west of the project location. The Port Angeles Harbor is over 5,500 feet to the north. The installation of the lighting would be in the right-of-way without impact to these water bodies.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: A drainage ditch identified as a Category IV wetland is located adjacent to the location where light posts would be installed. Westech Company has marked the wetland boundaries in the field. Several Category III wetlands are located to the south of the project area. Vehicles and construction activities would avoid the drainage ditch and dust screens would be used. The project would be allowed under the City of Port Angeles Municipal Code, subject to the approved Wetland Permit from the City of Port Angeles for operations near the on-site wetland.

Discharge of materials into the adjacent wetland would be mitigated through project design that would include use of an auger to install the light posts, rather than normal excavation equipment. Auger equipment to be rinsed and cleaned prior to use to prevent spread of invasive plants. Additional mitigation would be provided through use of best management practices and erosion control, which would include a silt fence to separate construction from the wetland and protect the wetland from erosion and siltation effects. Operational impacts following project completion would be expected to be minimal and not significant. Mitigation and monitoring plan would include longer term erosion control and installing native plants to off-set impacts and enhance the wetland conditions. Planting of native plants along the inner buffer zone within 25 feet of the east side of the wetland and west of the soccer field would be done after the light post installation.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers. The light posts would be installed at a depth of 5 feet and the associated wiring at a depth of 24 inches and would be too shallow to impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: The installation of the lighting would not significantly impact land use or specially designated areas. Construction is expected to take place over a two week period. Construction activities may be somewhat intermittent, and when active, may involve partial closure of the west access road. At times when periodic road closures may be necessary, a flagger would be present to direct any incoming and outgoing traffic.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment due to the addition of the lighting. Enhanced light conditions may exist from use of the street lighting next to the soccer field in evenings. Lighting would be downward directed and would not cause significant glare. The light poles would be consistent in visual effect with other man-made objects already in the area and would not cause significant visual impact.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Installation of light posts is not expected to impact human health and safety. Enhanced safety conditions may be expected from use of the street lighting along West Access Road in the evening.

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 Peninsula College, substation operators, and Peninsula College contractors 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: January 14, 2019