

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Longview-Washington Way Fiber Installation

**Project No.:** LURR 20190334

**Project Manager:** Charlene Belt – TERR-ROSS

**Location:** Cowlitz County, Washington

**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:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Comcast to install fiber optic cable across the BPA fee-owned Longview-Washington Way transmission line right-of-way. Approximately 534 feet of fiber optic cable would be attached to transmission structures 1/18, 2/1 and 2/2 along the Longview-Washington Way line. Equipment and vehicles would be parked on paved areas off BPA right-of-way. No ground disturbance would occur.

**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/ Tish Eaton  
Tish Eaton  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange  
Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 15, 2020

Attachment: 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:** Longview-Washington Way Fiber Installation

## Project Site Description

Most of the transmission line right-of-way where fiber would be attached is adjacent to Washington Way or Industrial Way (the line crosses Industrial Way between structures 1/18 and 2/1). Paved areas underlie the right-of-way span between structures 2/1 and 2/2 and most of the span between structures 1/18 and 2/1. Structure 2/1 is located in a mowed grassy area adjacent to a roadway drainage ditch. Topography in the project area is flat.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the fiber conduit installation would not include replacement of conductors or structure work or any ground disturbing activities, a determination of no potential to effect was made by the BPA Archaeologist on April 10, 2020.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbing activities would occur.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be on three transmission structures; no plants disturbed.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be on three transmission structures; no habitat present.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A drainage ditch, located about 30 feet east and parallel to BPA's fee-owned right-of-way, would not be disturbed. Since no ground disturbance would occur, there is no potential for sediment to enter this waterway.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Portions of the drainage ditch are shown as an NWI wetland; no ground disturbance so no potential for sediment to enter the wetland.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed.		

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



Explanation: The work would occur along two paved mainline roads in an industrial area of Longview. There would be no changes to land use and the project area is not part of a specially-designated area.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the project area. The transmission line would look the same; addition of a fiber optic cable would likely not be noticed by travelers in the area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No dust would be generated.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise generated would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts to human health and safety are anticipated.

### **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: No landowner notification or coordination would be necessary since the work would take place on BPA land.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Tish Eaton  
Tish Eaton, ECT-4

Date: April 15, 2020