

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Fiber Optic Cable Addition

Project No.: LURR 20190311

Project Manager: Charlene Belt – TERR- ROSS -MHQA

Location: Clark 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: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow K&B Technical Solutions (MCI Metro Access Transmission Services DBA Verizon) to add fiber to two existing Clark County PUD distribution lines that are located in the BPA transmission line right-of-way on the west side of Hazel Dell Road in Vancouver, Washington (Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Section 10). At this location, six BPA transmission lines (on 3 steel towers) cross the road in an east-west direction. Within the BPA right-of-way, the northern-most distribution pole is located closer to structure 38/4 of the Bonneville Powerhouse No. 1 – Alcoa Nos. 1 & 2 115-kV lines. The southern-most distribution pole is located closer to structure 1/5 of the Ross – Alcoa Nos. 3 & 4 230-kV lines.

K&B Technical Solutions would use a bucket truck to connect a fiber optic cable to the southern-most pole. No ground disturbance would occur at this pole. The contractor would then connect the fiber to the northern-most pole. At this point, the fiber cable would drop down the pole in conduit to a new fiber vault to be installed at the base of the pole. The vault would be 36" wide by 60" long by 36" deep. A pit would be excavated for the new vault and to bore and pull the cable in conduit east under Hazel Dell Rd. Another pit (within the BPA right-of-way) would be excavated on the east side of the road where the bore and cable in conduit would take a 90-degree turn and head north off of BPA's right-of-way. Once the vault is installed and the boring/cable pulling complete on BPA's right-of-way, the pits would be filled with excavated material, re-contoured, and reseeded.

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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn
Nancy A. Wittpenn
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel Date: April 23, 2020
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

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.

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Project Site Description

The project site on either side of Hazel Dell Road is flat with grass and weeds. Hazel Dell Road is a busy thoroughway in an area of mixed residential, industrial, and low-growing agricultural fields under the BPA transmission lines. Ross Maintenance Headquarters is immediately to the southeast of the project 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 Contract Archaeologist reviewed the proposal and determined that the project has no potential to effect historic properties and no Section 106 consultation is needed. The project is within a previously disturbed area for the existing fiber poles and the prism of the Hazel Dell road bed.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop work and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and the BPA archaeologist. In addition, interested Tribes, Washington Department of Historic Preservation, and the appropriate county, state, and Federal agencies should be notified.• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricted access.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would temporarily impact previously disturbed soil. All areas of ground disturbance would be reseeded by the contractor.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minor impacts to roadside vegetation would occur. No Federal or state special-status species are known to occur at the project site.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Typical urban wildlife occurs in the project area and would temporarily scatter during construction. The project site is adjacent to a busy road and mixed industrial and residential uses. Project noise and activity would not be out of character with surrounding land uses.</p>		

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

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



Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish occur on or near project site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands occur on or near project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No use of groundwater is proposed. No aquifers exist in this area.

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



Explanation: Utility actions are a permitted use at the project site. There are no specially-designated areas in the vicinity.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Project actions would not change the visual quality of the area as it is presently in utility use with the presence of transmission lines and fiber poles.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: A temporary increase in noise would occur during construction. See Wildlife above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The contractor would develop and follow their own safety plans. Flaggers may be used during construction as required by Clark County.

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: Surrounding landowners would be notified by BPA of the work schedule.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn
Nancy A. Wittpenn, ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 23, 2020