

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Vantage/ Wanapum Switchyard Road Pavement Project

PP&A No.: 4414

Project Manager: Victor Hitchens

Location: Grant County, WA

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

Description of the Proposed Action: B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Provide approximately 0.6 miles of bituminous surface treatment (BST) along Overlook Road beginning at the intersection of WA-243; remove and replace approximately 660 linear feet (LF) of hot mix asphalt (HMA) on the section of road adjacent to switchyard; direct irrigation runoff adjacent to the switchyard into existing ditches and discharge runoff to the southwest of Overlook Road. Water would be captured via a proposed perforated pipe then conveyed to the existing ditch through a proposed culvert. Water would then be conveyed through the existing ditch into a proposed ditch north of the Switchyard Road. Water would then be captured north of Switchyard Road and conveyed through a culvert underneath the road to the point of discharge.

Excavation is planned to occur for the proposed infiltration trench, culverts, and ditch. Excavation of 6-ft. may occur at the culvert locations. Excavation up to 1-ft below existing grade is expected under the roadway replacement section. This area under the roadway has likely been disturbed previously for the construction of the road subgrade. Previous excavation estimate did not include removal and replacement of road subgrade. Total estimated excavation is estimated at 1,050 CY. This project requires test pits to determine if the project would run into rock with the culvert excavation. The test pits would not exceed six feet in depth. The two staging locations used for the project are located in previously disturbed, graveled areas.

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/ Jonah Reenders

Jonah Reenders

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 1, 2020

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 area is located adjacent to a BPA substation and is mostly flat. The vegetation consists of sparse grass and shrub. The land use in the surrounding area is rural/agricultural and industrial.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> This project has been reviewed by BPA cultural lead Amy Homan and has been determined to have no potential to effect historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The majority of the work would occur in the existing road prism, where a road-base of rock already exists. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary to prevent erosion and disturbed areas would be stabilized.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/special-status species are present in the project area. Vegetation removal would be limited to the area directly affected by the project. Any disturbed areas would be reseeded with an appropriate seed mix.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as a substation access road. No special-status species are present.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work is proposed for this project.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands in or adjacent to the project area. The project would have no impact to wetlands.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs.		

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



Explanation: The project locations are within existing substation access road area.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The proposed improvements are consistent with the surroundings and would not significantly change the existing visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions are expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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

Signed: /s/ Jonah Reenders
Jonah D. Reenders
Physical Scientist

Date: May 1, 2020