

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Indreland Road Easement Acquisition

Project Manager: Meadow Nelson - TEPS-TPP-1

Location: Missoula County, MT

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to purchase an easement along approximately the easternmost 2.5 miles of Indreland Road from Missoula County and other underlying private landowners. BPA would use Indreland Road to access its Hot Springs-Rattlesnake #1 230kV transmission line for ongoing maintenance and line upgrades. BPA will conduct separate environmental analysis for any proposed construction or work on the access road if the actions are proposed.

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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024), 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.¹

Douglas Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

¹ BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to DOE's own regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
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.

Proposed Action: Indreland Road Easement Acquisition

Project Site Description

Indreland Road is located in unincorporated Missoula County, Montana and runs approximately 3.5 miles between State Highway 93 on the west end and BPA's Hot Springs-Rattlesnake No. 1 230kV transmission line right of way on the east end. Forestry and agriculture are the predominant land uses with some residences adjacent to the road mostly on the western end. Indreland road follows a small valley running east to west, with small drainages interspersed throughout. Vegetation is a mix of valley bottom crops, shrub-steppe and coniferous forest.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed, easement acquisition only. BPA cultural resources made a determination of no potential to affect cultural resources on June 2, 2025. No impacts to historic or cultural resources is expected.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA periodically uses Indreland Road to access the transmission line right of way, the acquisition would formalize that use. No new or changed uses of the project area would occur. No impacts to land use or specially-designated areas would occur.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance proposed, easement acquisition only.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance, equipment use, or installation proposed, easement acquisition only.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No equipment use or installation proposed, easement acquisition only.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance, equipment use, or installation proposed, easement acquisition only.

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: 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: 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: 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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Affected landowners and lessees have been notified.

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

Signed:

Douglas Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist