

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Clark County Graveled Landscaping Parking Lot

**Project No.:** LURR20250205

**Project Manager:** Billie Woodman, TERR-ROQQ MHQA

**Location:** Clark County, Washington.

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 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 G-Force Landscape LLC (GFL) to construct a gravelled parking area for parking landscaping vehicles within BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) between structures 31/1 and 30/5 on the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 transmission lines in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. On BPA property, GFL would gravel an area intended to be utilized for parking and storing landscaping vehicles approximately 90 feet wide by 150 feet long. No grading or ground disturbance would be conducted.

BPA authorizes the use of and manages its fee-owned lands pursuant to its authority under sections 2(e) and 2(f) of the Bonneville Project Act. 16 U.S.C. § 832a(e)-(f).

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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 the interim final rule to revise DOE NEPA regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 and NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated June 30, 2025), to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

Jessica A. Heppler  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

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:** Clark County Graveled Landscaping Parking Lot

## **Project Site Description**

The project site is within BPA fee-owned North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line ROW, between, and to the north of structures 31/1 and 30/5 in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington (Township 02 North, Range 02 East, Section 27). Ground cover within the project site consists of regularly mowed and maintained native and non-native grass species. The ROW further to the east and west of the project site is similarly characterized by open, managed grass species, with some agricultural uses. Outside of the ROW, the surrounding area is primarily a mix of urban residential, with some agricultural land uses. The National Hydrography Dataset indicates the nearest body of water and fish-bearing stream is Burnt Bridge Creek located approximately 600 feet to the north of the project site. The soils survey data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates the project site is characterized by Lauren gravelly loam, which is not hydric.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist initiated Section 106 consultation with a delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and a determination of no historic properties affected on July 28, 2025 with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). On July 28, 2025, DAHP concurred with BPA's APE. No other responses were received.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: A small amount of soil disturbance would be expected from the spreading of gravel. Geology is not anticipated to be affected by project actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Plant species present are species low growing and routinely managed. About 0.3 acre of low-growing vegetation would be covered with gravel. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species, or plant species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) occurring at the project site.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of special-status wildlife species or suitable habitat present in the project area. Minor and temporary disturbance of common wildlife species could occur from elevated noise during construction. Because the work would be

occurring in an urbanized area, any wildlife present are likely used to human presence and noise.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The project site is not located in, or near any surface waters or fish bearing streams and is not located within a floodplain. Project activities are not anticipated to affect surface waters, fish or fish-bearing streams.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The project site is not located within or near wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Project activities are unlikely to reach depths affecting groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There would be no change in land use or specially designated areas as a result of this project.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The addition of a graveled parking area is expected to be a minimal alteration to visual quality and would remain consistent with the visual quality of the area.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Temporary and minor dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area from vehicle and equipment use during project implementation. There would be a small amount of dust generated by long-term vehicle use but would be intermittent consistent with the storage purposes of the lot and adjacent agricultural land uses.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Project-related noise would be temporary and intermittent and would occur during daylight hours. Vehicle noise would be consistent with other vehicles present in the project area.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: The projects would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. No impact to human health and safety is expected as a result of project activities.

### **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: The proposed action would occur on land owned by BPA. No additional landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed:

Jessica A. Heppler  
Environmental Protection Specialist