

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Arcadia Grid LLC New Access Road Project

Project No.: LURR20240414

Project Manager: Billie Woodman – TERR-ROSS MHQA

Location: Multnomah County, Oregon.

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 Arcadia Grid LLC to construct and maintain a gravel access road, and to temporarily place heavy equipment associated with a new line install in the BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW), near Portland General Electric (PGE) owned Harborton Substation, Multnomah County, Oregon. On the BPA fee-owned land, vegetation would be cleared, and a gravel access road would be installed approximately 155 feet long, 12 feet wide, and would cross the BPA ROW associated with the St. Johns-Keeler No 1 and No 2 transmission line. Heavy equipment necessary for the installation of a new non-BPA-owned transmission line segment on adjacent property would be temporarily staged in the BPA ROW associated with the Rivergate-Keeler No. 1 and No 2 ROW.

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.¹

Jessica A. Heppler
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

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 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.

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: Acadia Grid LLC New Access Road Project

Project Site Description

The project site is within BPA fee-owned St Johns-Keeler No 1 and No 2 transmission line and Rivergate-Keeler No. 1 and No 2 ROWs, near the PGE-owned Harborton Substation in Multnomah County, Oregon (T2N R1W DC 53). Ground cover within the project site consists of regularly managed native and non-native small trees, shrubs and herbaceous species. Outside of the ROW, the surrounding area is a mix of light industrial, commercial, and transportation land uses. Highway 30 is approximately 125 feet to the southwest of the project area, and a railway line is approximately 40 feet to the northeast. The National Hydrography Dataset indicates no surface waters in the project area. The survey data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Wetland Inventory indicates the project site has no hydric soils, or wetlands present.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation:

On August 26th, 2025 background research followed by an intensive field survey of the area of effects (APE) was conducted. Based on the results, BPA determined that the proposed activities would not result in any historic properties affected. On September 24th, 2025 the SHPO concurred with the determination. On September 30th, 2025 the 30-day response period expired with no other comments received from consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project actions would impact approximately 0.2 acres. An estimated 0.04 acres of the project area soils would be permanently impacted by the installation of a 12-foot wide, 155-foot-long gravel access road. Soils temporarily disturbed by project actions and vegetation removal would be reseeded with an appropriate mixture to revegetate post-road construction. Acadia Grid LLC would be responsible for implementing standard construction best management practices to minimize erosion and sedimentation from access road construction as well as utilizing mats to avoid soil disturbance for the heavy equipment to be temporarily utilized in the ROW. The proposed action would not impact the current geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: The vegetated areas that would be disturbed by access road construction and temporary equipment placement contain a variety of both native and non-native plant species. Some of the species observed during a site visit on May 28th, 2025 included Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Red alder (*Alnus rubra*), and Willow (*Salix spp.*). There would be some small trees and shrubs permanently removed associated with the construction of the access road. Areas that

would have vegetation temporarily cleared to accommodate access road construction would be reseeded soon after project completion with a site-appropriate seed mixture.

No special-status plant species or suitable habitat for special-status plant species are present within the project area. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on special-status plant species.

Notes: Upon project completion, the applicant would reseed the temporarily disturbed areas with seed mixes that are regionally appropriate for the area.

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 adjacent to a currently operating substation, railway and highway traffic, 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 any surface waters or fish bearing streams and is not located within a floodplain.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project action area is not within a wetland.

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: Allowing for a permanent graveled access road and the temporary presence of construction equipment is expected to be a minor alteration to visual quality and would remain consistent with the overall visual characteristics of the site.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Depending on the vehicles and equipment used, temporary and minor dust and vehicle emissions could increase in the local area during project implementation. There would be no long-term impact to air quality following completion of the project.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected for this area as a result of this project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project 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