

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Portland General Electric Conductor Replacements

Project No.: LURR 20250432

Project Manager: Darin Smith, TERR-CHEMAWA

Location: Washington 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 Portland General Electric (PGE) to replace the conductor on several of PGE's existing transmission lines that cross over the BPA Oregon City-Stub-C and Keeler-Oregon City, No. 2 right-of-way (ROW). In some locations, PGE would drive equipment and vehicles on BPA's ROW, including truck-mounted cranes to serve as prop-structures during conductor replacement. Equipment within BPA ROW would include heavy trucks and cranes. The use of stationary equipment in BPA ROW would be minimal and for limited duration (i.e., trucks with telescoping booms positioned with roller guards to protect overhead wires from falling onto BPA transmission lines and adjacent roads during the restringing process). No excavation or new transmission structures would occur within BPA ROW.

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 the current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures*, 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.

Beth Belanger
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

FOR Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment: Environmental Evaluation

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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

There are four project locations where Portland General Electric (PGE) would be working. All are within Washington County and all within the existing right-of-way (ROW).

The first location is in Section 32, township 1 South, Range 1 West, and adjacent to PGE's Murrayhill Substation and SW Scholls Ferry Road in Beaverton, Oregon.

The second location is in Section 4, Township 2 South, Range 1 West, and is near SW Barrows Road in Beaverton, Oregon.

The third location is in Section 21, Township 2 South, Range 1 West, adjacent to SW Pacific Drive, near SW Cipole Road in Tualatin, Oregon.

The fourth location is in Section 28, Township 2 South, Range 1 West, near Galbreath Drive in Sherwood, Oregon.

The surrounding land use varies at these locations from urban residential, to agricultural or industrial use. A paved public path, named the Westside Regional Trail, winds through the ROW at one location. There are no wetlands or waterways within close proximity to any of the locations. The vegetation in all the locations consists mainly of non-native grasses.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: On June 16, 2026, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with The Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The initiation letter included a determination of no historic properties affected. SHPO concurred with BPA's determination on June 16, 2026. No other comments were received from the consulting parties.

Notes:

- No excavation activities would be performed in the BPA ROW.
- In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties. BPA's Post-Review Discovery Procedure would be followed by PGE.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work would not involve any excavation activities. Minor soil compaction may occur from driving construction equipment and vehicles across the ROW.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to Federal or state special-status species or habitats. The entire BPA ROW was surveyed in 2025 for federally-listed species (Willamette daisy, Kincaid's lupine), and state-listed species (white rock larkspur, tall western penstemon, Nelson's checkermallow) and no occurrences were documented.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to Federal or state special-status species or habitats. Rare species are unlikely to occupy the project areas because they have degraded habitats near busy roads with heavy human presence. Local wildlife, such as migratory birds, may temporarily avoid these locations while the work is being conducted, but there would be no long-term effects such as habitat removal.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains or fish habitats within or near the project areas. There would be no project impacts to these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands in or near the project areas that would be affected by project activities.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: There would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers from project activities.

Notes:

- PGE to have and maintain chemical spill kits onsite while doing work within the ROW.
- Refueling of equipment and vehicles shall not occur on the ROW.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small segment of the Westside Regional Trail may be temporarily closed during construction activities. PGE would coordinate with Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation to manage temporary trail closures or re-routing. There would be no long-term changes to land use from the project activities. There are no specially-designated areas that would be affected by the project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The presence of construction equipment and vehicles would temporarily change the visual quality of the area but there would be no long-term changes to visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be a minor increase of dust and vehicle emissions during project activities, but there would be no long-term effects on air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Operation of construction equipment and vehicles would result in a slight rise above the ambient noise levels. Noise levels would return to normal after the project activities have been completed.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities would not have an effect on 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: 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 underlying land for all project locations is on BPA fee-owned property, which does not require landowner notification. PGE has developed a public engagement plan for their overall project and also has a project website that is available to the public.

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

Signed:

Beth Belanger
Environmental Protection Specialist