Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Roosevelt Radio Site Access Road Improvement

PP&A No.: 6718

Project Manager: Ariel Kramer – TELF-TPP-3

Location: Klickitat County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.13 – Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

Description of the Proposed Action: For this project, BPA is proposing to improve and repair 20,170 linear feet of access road for the Roosevelt Radio Station. Proposed road work includes grading the road, laying down 6,060 tons of base rock, 3,030 tons of surface rock, and installing 19 water bars, three ranch gates, one heavy duty gate, and a Miami box. In addition, 21 culverts would be cleaned and inlets repaired.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, repair, relocate, and replace the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto. (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838i(b)). The Administrator is further charged with maintaining electrical stability and reliability, selling transmission and interconnection services, and providing service to BPA's customers. (16 U.S.C § 838b(b-d)). The Administrator is also authorized to conduct electrical research, development, experimentation, tests, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities. (16 U.S.C § 838i(b)(3)).

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.

/s/ *Caden Almer*
Caden Almer
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ *Sarah T. Biegel*
Sarah T. Biegel Date: *October 29, 2026*
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): 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.

Proposed Action: Roosevelt Radio Site Access Road Improvement

Project Site Description

The proposed action would occur in the Columbia Plateau level IV ecoregion, located in Southeastern Washington, in Klickitat County. The work area is an existing access road for Roosevelt Radio site. The work would occur in privately-managed lands.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation on January 16, 2020. On January 21, 2020, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with the delineated APE and assigned the project the DAHP Log Number of 2020-01-00686-BPA. On January 17, 2020, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation responded with a request that a pedestrian survey be conducted as the area of potential effects (APE) is near areas of cultural significance. On January 21, 2020, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation responded and requested that an archaeological survey and continued consultation be conducted as the APE is near areas of cultural significance.

All 22.74 project acres were surveyed, and shovel testing was conducted. No archaeological resources were identified as a result of the survey. One historic built environment resource, the Roosevelt Radio Station, overlaps with a small portion of the APE. Although the radio station is an eligible resource, the project would be solely focused on the access roads, and no work would occur on the radio station. There would be no impact to the integrity of the Roosevelt Radio Station. Final consultation was sent on August 5, 2021. DAHP concurred on August 6, 2021.

Therefore, as per §36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), BPA has determined that the implementation of the proposed undertaking would result in no historic properties affected.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Roosevelt Radio Site Access Road Improvement Project involves road work on existing access roads. While some light blading, re-grading, and rocking would be necessary, no significant road cuts or earth movement would be required. Disturbed, un-rocked soils outside of the road prism would be seeded and stabilized to minimize risk of erosion and sedimentation. The project has no potential for significant impacts to geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no special-status plant species present in the work area. Work is to be conducted in an existing access road footprint. The disturbed areas would be revegetated upon project completion with a climate-appropriate grass seed mix. The project has no potential for significant impacts to plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Yellow-billed cuckoo, northwestern pond turtle, monarch butterfly, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee are species listed in the project area. Non-listed wildlife is anticipated to use adjacent habitat and return to the area soon after the completion of work.

BPA has conducted an effects determination and found that the project would have "No effect" on the yellow-billed cuckoo, northwestern pond turtle, monarch butterfly, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee. The project area does not overlap with designated critical habitat. The Project has no potential for significant impacts to wildlife.

Please review BPA's Roosevelt Radio Site Access Road Improvement Project No Effect Memo for more information regarding the project's effects to endangered species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located near the Columbia River. However, there are no overlaps within the river or designated critical habitat. Therefore, BPA has determined that the project will have "No effect" on endangered bull trout. No floodplains are present in the project area. The project has no potential for significant impacts to water bodies, floodplains, and fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no known wetlands present in the project area. Some wetland indicators (such as hydrology) are present in various isolated locations within the footprint of the existing access roads in certain locations on slopes, as the existing road cuts intercept natural slope drainages and can form seasonal seeps and wet areas on the slope. While the wetland status of these seeps is undetermined, regardless, any potential access road improvements in existing serviceable road footprint would be exempt from Clean Water Act dredge and fill regulations by the maintenance exemption (Clean Water Act, Section 404 F 1 b). All road work improvements would be conducted in existing access road footprint. The project has no potential for significant impacts to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would not involve new groundwater wells or ground disturbance that would impact aquifers. The project has no potential for significant impacts to groundwater and aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA consulted with the private landowners regarding the proposed actions. The project has no potential for significant impacts on existing land use or specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work would be conducted in existing access road footprint in rural areas. No tree removal or change in the viewshed is planned. The project has no potential for significant impacts to visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would create temporary dust and vehicle emission due to construction; however, no significant impacts would occur.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance No

Explanation: The project would create temporary noise due to construction; however, no significant impacts would occur.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During project construction activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Post-construction road improvements in this remote area would reduce the risk to BPA employees and other users along the remote access road system, improving human health and safety. The project would have no significant impacts 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 proposed project is located on BPA access road easements, on land owned by private landowners. BPA has notified landowners of the planned activity and proposed construction schedule. BPA would continue ongoing coordination with the landowners during project activities.

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

Signed: /s/ *Caden Almer* Date: *October 29, 2026*
Caden Almer
Physical Scientist (Environmental)