Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Dog Park Pedestrian Path Improvement Project

Project No.: LURR20020323

Project Manager: Billie Woodman, TERR-ROSS-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 the applicants, City of Vancouver and the Dog Paw organization, to upgrade an existing pedestrian path from gravel to asphalt at Ike Memorial Park, an off-leash dog park.

The existing gravel path connects a crosswalk at NE 15th Avenue (located to the west), to the chain-link gated entrance of the dog park (to the east). The path is currently about 130 feet long and about 6 feet wide. Soil tests would be performed by the applicants prior to blading and grading the path to create a level surface for asphalt application. The finished asphalt path would also be about 6 feet wide and about 130 feet long. The work would take about two days to complete. No equipment would be staged west of NE 15th Avenue.

The park is located on BPA-fee owned land under transmission lines. 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 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.

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Becky Hill
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

KATEY GRANGE

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Katey C. Grange
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: Dog Park Pedestrian Path Improvement Project

Project Site Description

The project site is located at Ike Ross Memorial Park, in Clark County, Washington. The park is an off-leash fenced dog park, situated east of NE 15th Avenue, north of NE 49th Street, west of urban residences and south of the Ross Complex facility. The pedestrian path and park are located under the North Bonneville–Ross No. 1 and No. 2 and Ross-Vancouver Shipyard No. transmission lines in WA T2N R1E Section 14.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: On October 20, 2026, BPA determined that the proposed project meets the applicability of BPA's existing transmission-related Programmatic Agreement(s) for undertakings subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The proposed project would result in no historic properties affected with no minimization and no mitigation required. No consultation beyond annual reporting was required.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Grading and blading the gravel pathway would temporarily result in small, localized soil disturbance to depths of about 6 inches. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to prevent the migration of any sediment off-site. The proposed action would not impact geology.

Notes:

- The applicants would adhere to the requirements described in Ross Dig Permit # 2026-010 issued September 30, 2026, which includes a BPA-approved Sampling Plan, a Disposal Plan, and a Best Management Practice and Restoration Site Plan prior to commencing soil disturbing work at the site.
- Test soils for hazardous materials, which if found, would be disposed of off-site according to local, state, and federal regulations.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction equipment may temporarily crush and remove about 100 square feet of grass lawn adjacent to the path. If lawn areas are disturbed, they would be reseeded upon project completion. No special-status plant species or suitable habitat for special-status plant species are present in the project area. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on special-status plant species or habitat.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary disturbance of generalist, urban wildlife species could occur from elevated noise and activity during construction. Because the work would be occurring alongside a paved road and near an active dog park where human activity is frequent, any wildlife species present are likely already used to human presence and noise. No special-status wildlife species or suitable habitat is present within the project area. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on special-status wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project area does not contain any water bodies, floodplains, or surface connectivity to fish-bearing streams. BMPs would prevent impacts to off-site water bodies, floodplains, and streams. Therefore, the project would not impact water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

Notes:

- Maintain an oil/fuel spill kit on-site during construction to address containment, cleanup, and disposal in the event of a spill.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project area does not contain any wetlands. BMPs would prevent impacts to off-site wetlands. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on wetlands.

Notes:

- Maintain an oil/fuel spill kit on-site during construction to address containment, cleanup, and disposal in the event of a spill.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities would not reach depths of groundwater or an aquifer. No new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. BMPs would prevent impacts from unintended spills to groundwater or aquifers. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would be consistent with current land use, as a transmission line right-of-way and a recreational pedestrian path providing access to the dog park. No land use changes are proposed. The site is not located within a specially-designated area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The conversion of a gravel pedestrian path to an asphalt path, of a similar width and length, would not substantially change the visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction activities would result in a minor and temporary increase in dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. BMPs, such as turning off vehicles when not in use, would be implemented to limit the amount of emissions released in the local area.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, use of vehicles and equipment and general construction activities would create noise above current ambient conditions. However, noise impacts would be temporary and intermittent and would occur during typical working hours (approximately 7am to 7pm). Construction-related noise would not likely be audible from residential properties nearby. There would be no permanent change to ambient noise levels following completion of the project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The improvement of an uneven, loose, gravel pedestrian path, to a stable asphalt paved path that meets Americans with Disabilities Act standards, would have a net benefit on Human Health and Safety for users of the pathway.

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: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates contaminants left in the ground, also known as Institutional Control Areas. Consistent with an agreement with the EPA, BPA's Pollution Prevention and Abatement department reviewed the proposed action, and approved Ross Dig Permit 2026-010 on September 30, 2026, for the Institutional Control Area located near the project area. The applicants would adhere to the requirements of the Ross Dig Permit.

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 site is located on BPA fee-owned property associated with the North Bonneville–Ross No. 1 and No. 2, and Ross-Vancouver Shipyard No. transmission line rights-of-ways. The applicants, City of Vancouver and Dog Paw, would be responsible for notifying users of the access restrictions during the pathway work.

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

Signed: REBBECCA HILL

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