

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Tacoma-Raver 13/2 Impairment Remediation

**Project No. (if applicable):**

**Project Manager:** Philip Smith

**Location:** King County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.11 Fencing

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to construct a fencing enclosure around an impairment area between structures 13/2 and 13/3 of the Tacoma-Raver No. 1 BPA Transmission Line Corridor. No intrusive or earth moving activity will be required for the installation of the fence, as it will utilize concrete barriers instead of traditional below-ground structures. The project will prevent human entrance to the hazardous area and ensure the safety of those in the nearby community.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

*/s/ Emma Reinemann*

Emma Reinemann  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 14, 2017

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

## Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

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:** Tacoma-Raver 13/2 Impairment Remediation

### Project Site Description

The project site is between structures 13/2 and 13/3 of the Tacoma-Raver No. 1 BPA Transmission Line Corridor in King County, Washington. The subject area is a brushy vegetated portion of the BPA ROW bordered by houses to the north and south and by roads to the east and west.

Township		Range		Section
21	N	5	E	4

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA has determined that the proposed work has no potential to affect any historic or cultural resources, as the scope of work does not include ground-disturbing activity.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No vegetation removal is required for this project. No special-status species are present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. The scope of the project will preserve the topography and vegetation existing on site. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The site is not adjacent to any bodies of water and does not lie in a floodplain. The scope of work does not include ground-disturbing activity; therefore, erosion and sediment control measures will not be necessary.		

6. Wetlands

Explanation: The project site does not intersect with any wetland areas; however, wetland areas are present between structures 13/1 and 13/2 and structures 13/3 and 13/4. Work would remain confined to project area with no impact to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation:  
No ground disturbance is proposed. Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation:  
The project is confined to an existing ROW. No specially designated areas are located in the project area.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation:  
Fencing will be a new feature visible from the nearby residences; however, it will be low in elevation and below existing power lines and therefore, will not drastically change the visual appearance of the area.

10. Air Quality

Explanation:  
Small amount of vehicle emissions during construction.

11. Noise

Explanation:  
A minor amount of temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation:  
There are no human health and safety risks additional to those normally associated with fence installation. Human health and safety will be improved by the impairment enclosure.

#### **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, if necessary: NA

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary: NA

- 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, if necessary: NA

- 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, if necessary: NA

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The proposed project is located on a BPA ROW through privately-owned land. BPA would continue ongoing coordination with the landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann  
Emma Reinemann, Physical Scientist

Date: March 14, 2017