

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Tacoma to Raver 1&2 No. 1 Access Road Maintenance Project

PP&A No.: 4206

Project Manager: Richard Ross – TELF-TPP-3

Location: King County, Washington

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
21N	5E	5	King County, WA	Private Owners

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to perform routine road maintenance along the access road for the Tacoma-Raver No. 1 Transmission Line, between 112th Ave. SE, Auburn, WA, and BPA transmission line structure 12/2. Access road work would include adding 30 feet of wood fencing, replacing two cross-drain culverts, adding a third cross-drain culvert, adding a landing, reconstructing 525 feet of ditch adjacent to the road, and grading, blading, and adding rock (improvements) to approximately 1,250 feet of existing serviceable access road. General equipment used for this type of project includes graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 3, 2018

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 to Raver No. 1 Access Road Maintenance Project

Project Site Description

Proposed maintenance activities are located in a segment of access road for the Tacoma-Raver No. 1 Transmission Line, between 112 Ave. SE, Auburn, WA, and BPA transmission line structure 12/2. One wetland, Wetland A, was delineated within the project area. Vegetation in the project area primarily consists of grasses and shrubs. Land use within the project area consists of the utility line corridor right-of-way (ROW) and includes dirt and gravel access road, steel-lattice transmission towers and associated electrical lines. Land use in the surrounding area consists of medium-density residential development and natural, open land.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> On January 5, 2018, BPA initiated consultation with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, US Army Corps of Engineers - Seattle District, and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). On January 8, 2018, DAHP concurred with the APE (2018-01-00175-BPA).</p> <p>A cultural resources review was conducted by Bonneville Power Administration on May 1, 2018; Washington DAHP concurrence on a Determination of No Historic Properties Affected was received May 8, 2018. The Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe were consulted. The Nisqually Indian Tribe responded May 14, 2018, in agreement with the Determination of No Effect on Historic Properties and did not request additional conditions. No additional comments were received.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, BPA would stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; DAHP; and the appropriate local, state and Federal agencies. BPA would implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering, and take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within the existing road prism (1,250 feet long by 16 feet wide), at the 3 cross-drain culverts, and at a new landing (1,600 sq. ft.). Due to wet soil conditions, work would occur during the dry season (May-September). Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to prevent erosion and disturbed areas would be reseeded. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected.</p> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> Vegetation removal would be limited to those areas within the disturbance footprint as described in the Soils section, above. No Federal or state special-status plant species are mapped within the project area. All areas of soil disturbance would be reseeded. Vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entry into the</p> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
project area to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No suitable habitat is present in the project area for listed wildlife species. Low-quality habitat typical of the area would be disturbed. No state or federally-listed wildlife species are mapped within the project 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> No waterbodies were mapped within the project area during a December 2, 2016, site visit conducted by Mason, Bruce & Girard.		
6. Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Permanent impacts up to 0.119 acre to one wetland were approved by the Army Corps of Engineers on July 17, 2018, under Nationwide Permit 14. Impacts would occur from placement of fill for access road maintenance and cross-drain culvert installation and replacement. All work would be consistent with the approved Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Groundwater would not be affected by proposed road improvement activities; no new groundwater wells or use of ground water proposed.		
8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No land use changes are proposed; no specially-designated areas have been identified.		
9. Visual Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All improvements will be at ground level and are limited to existing road prisms and the area immediately surrounding the transmission lines. Access roads would visually match existing roads.		
10. Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Any fugitive dust or similar air-quality impacts during project construction are expected to be temporary and minimal.		
11. Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Construction noise from typical utility line equipment would be temporary and localized.		
12. Human Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Project activities would not impact human health or safety. The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.		

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:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project is privately owned. Property owners would be notified prior to construction.

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

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning
Chad Browning
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: August 3, 2018