

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Cattle Creek-Goshen Access Road Maintenance Project, Miles 8/6-10/1

PP&A No.: 3682

Project Manager: Micah Bandurraga

Location: Bonneville County, Idaho

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

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA is proposing to repair approximately 3 miles of access roads along the Cattle Creek-Goshen line. Access road work would include the improvement and reconstruction of existing roadway. Proposed road work would include: blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on existing road prisms to ensure safe access to structures. In addition, the proposed road work would include the repair of one landing and installation of drainage features such as cross drain culverts, water bars, and drain dips. General equipment used for this type of road maintenance includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, excavators, and dump trucks.

Table 1. Access Road Work Locations

Structures	Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership	USGS Quad Name
Cattle Creek - Goshen No. 1 Line				
8/6-10/1	1N, 39E, Section 32 ,33	Bonneville, ID	Private	Ammon, Ozone, Wolverine

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/ Laura Roberts
Laura Roberts
Biological Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 26, 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.

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Project Site Description

The proposed access road maintenance is located in eastern Idaho and crosses private agricultural land and rangeland.

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> BLM and the Shoshone did not respond to BPA's Letter of Determination dated September 12 th , 2018, that no historic properties would be affected by the project during the stipulated 30-day waiting period. Idaho SHPO did respond on October 11 th with a request for additional information. BPA submitted the requested information on October 31 st and Idaho SHPO responded with concurrence on November 8 th , 2018; therefore, according to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800, BPA's consultation requirements have been fulfilled.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Material and equipment staging areas would be located on existing roads, structure landings, and turnarounds. Equipment would be restricted to existing road prisms, road fills, and structure landings. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/ state special-status plant are present within the project area. Disturbed areas would be reseeded as necessary.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA determined that the proposed project area does not contain Designated Critical Habitat or federal or state special-status species.		

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



Explanation: There is no proposed road maintenance involving a perennial water body or any type of water body that would affect any fish species.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands present within the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. Project would not result in any groundwater withdrawals nor provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality as a result of the proposed road maintenance.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emission due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which 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: BPA Realty will make the necessary landowner notifications.

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts
Laura Roberts
Biological Scientist

Date: November 26, 2018