

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Olympia-Satsop No. 2, 14/1 access road stream protection

Project Manager: Erich Orth, TELF-TPP-3

Location: Grays Harbor County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.33 Stormwater runoff control.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to complete work to help protect the west fork of Porter Creek from impacts related to unauthorized off-road vehicle (ORV) use of the existing BPA access road. The road is in severe deterioration and is adding sediment to the creek during rain events. Furthermore, ORV users are entering and exiting the creek at the access road crossing. Tasks include, adding large rock to the road surface to stabilize the road base. Large rock installation should also deter ORV use of the road as large rock is an undesirable riding surface. BPA also plans to install several large tree stumps at the ORV access points to the stream above the ordinary high water mark to block access to the stream. Erosion control materials will be installed to protect the stream from further sedimentation during and after construction.

The location of the road maintenance project and nearest transmission structure, (for location identification) is:

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Olympia-Satsop No. 2	14/1	18N	4W	29	DNR

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/ Joseph Sharpe for
Greg Tippetts - EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 29, 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: Olympia-Satsop No. 2, 14/1 access road stream protection

Project Site Description

All work would be done on an existing BPA access road leading to the Olympia-Satsop 230-kV transmission line ROW at and near the crossing of the west fork of Porter Creek. The project is located on WA DNR land.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA cultural staff (ECC) have reviewed to project for potential impacts to historical or culturally sensitive resources. All work will be completed on an existing access road consisting of imported fill material. Large rock and tree stumps will be placed during the project, but no ground disturbing activities will occur. Given the regulatory need to comply with requirements of the clean water act this project was determined to be an emergency action, and the activities were approved. If resources are discovered during project activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project intends to stabilize soils currently adding sediment to the subject creek. All work is on existing access road fill material imported during the original construction of the water crossing. Where appropriate, storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur within the existing access road. No vegetation is present. No special-status species are present within the project boundaries.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur within the existing access road and would not be considered wildlife habitat. No mapped special-status species are known to be present.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This project intends to protect the west fork of Porter Creek from further sedimentation due to the current condition of the access road crossing. The project also intends to block ORV access to the creek from the creek crossing location. Appropriate storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding areas from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project</p>		

activities. No in-water work is authorized for the project. No FEMA-mapped floodplains are mapped within the project site. No ESA or EFH listed species are known to inhabit the creek.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Aside from the creek itself, no wetlands are within the project boundary. No in-water work is authorized for the project. Fill material (rock) will be added to the existing access road only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. Any spills would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The project location is confined to the existing transmission line access road. The project is located on WA DNR land. Project locations do not include any specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities would not alter or affect visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance would be limited to general construction equipment activities, would be for a short duration, and would occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known.

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 was notified of the issue this project intends to correct by the property owner, the WA DNR. The project PM and TLM foreman have been in contact with DNR staff throughout development and planning of the proposed project.

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

Signed: Joseph Sharpe for
Greg Tippetts - EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: November 29, 2018