

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No.1 Access Road Upgrade

**LURR No.:** 20180044

**Project Manager:** Dawneen Dostert, TERR-ROSS

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple Use of Transmission Line Rights-of-Way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reconstruct one segment of existing access road and construct one segment of new access road on BPA-fee owned land within the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No.1 transmission line corridor in Clark County, Washington. The road work would provide DNR access to a planned timber sale.

Approximately 150 feet of road would be reconstructed and about 80 feet of new road would be constructed.

- Road reconstruction would include widening the existing road surface and subgrade by about 2 to 3 feet (to 16 feet wide subgrade with a 12 foot wide driving surface); excavating a 3 foot wide ditch along the north side of the road; grading; shaping; and applying rock. No trees would be removed during reconstruction of the existing road.
- New road construction would include felling one 20 foot tall service berry shrub and one 12 foot tall cherry tree; vegetative debris disposal; excavation and embankment for the subgrade; application of rock; and compaction of earthwork and rock. The new road would have a 14 foot wide subgrade and 12 foot wide driving surface with a 5 foot wide cleared area on each side.

Road reconstruction and construction would disturb about 0.13 acres of soil.

DNR has completed a SEPA process and has designed the road work in compliance with the Washington State Forest Practices Act.

**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/ Tish Eaton

Tish Eaton  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 9, 2018

Attachment: 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:** North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale No.1  
Access Road Upgrade

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### Project Site Description

The proposed road work would occur in mile 18 of the North Bonneville-Ross No.1 and the North Bonneville-Troutdale No.1 transmission lines on fee-owned right-of-way. The transmission line corridor crosses through hilly terrain in rural Clark County at an approximate elevation of 1,040 feet above sea level. Corridor vegetation consists of grasses and low growing shrubs with forested areas along the corridor edges. Part of the corridor is used to graze cattle with little vegetation remaining. Streams cross the corridor to the east and west of the project site but not within.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No adverse effect to historic properties determination made by BPA on February 6, 2018. Washington SHPO concurrence received on February 6, 2018.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> About 0.08 acre of soil would be disturbed during road reconstruction and about 0.05 acre of soil disturbance would occur from new road construction. This disturbance would be confined to BPA's right-of-way; any excess soil would be re-contoured on site and reseeded.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present or known to occur at the project site. Existing vegetation would be removed along the edge of the existing access road during widening and for construction of the new road.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present or known to occur at the project site. While migratory birds may possibly nest in the two trees slated for removal, the work would occur in the fall when young have fledged. The birds would likely find other trees immediately adjacent for future nesting activities.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no change in land use and no specially designated areas are present.		
9. <b>Visual Quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The reconstructed segment of road would look similar to the existing road. For the new road segment, one tree and one shrub would be cleared at the edge of the transmission line right-of-way as the road leaves BPA-owned land. The newly cleared road would be visible from the transmission line corridor only. There are no residences located adjacent to the corridor in this area.		
10. <b>Air Quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Short term dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.		
11. <b>Noise</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No long-term impacts are anticipated.		
12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No impact.		

### 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: None required.

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

Signed: /s/ Tish Eaton  
Tish Eaton ECT-4

Date: April 9, 2018