

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Cornelius Pass Road Widening within Keeler-Allston Corridor Project

LURR Case No.: 20120420

Project Manager: Jill Nystrom

Location: Washington County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to allow Washington County (County) to widen a portion of NW Cornelius Pass Road on existing BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) within BPA's Keeler-Allston transmission line corridor in Washington County, OR. Completion of the widening project would improve mobility and safety, increase capacity, and reduce travel times.

The County's road-widening project would disturb up to 1.8 acres of BPA fee-owned ROW within the Keeler-Allston transmission line corridor between NW Cornelius Pass Road and structure 1/3 of BPA's Keeler-Allston No.1 500-kV transmission line. Construction activities within this area would include the construction of a new asphalt turn lane, asphalt bicycle lane, and concrete sidewalk. The County's road-widening work would consist of widening approximately 600 linear feet of NW Cornelius Pass Road from 15 to 50 feet into BPA's fee-owned ROW, and would include vegetation removal and grading operations, placement of subgrade geotextile and aggregate base, construction of a stormwater management swale, and application of asphalt and concrete. Following completion of construction activities, the County would restore all disturbed areas to pre-construction conditions, to the extent possible.

The proposed project would require that the County permanently disturb approximately 1.0 acre to accommodate the road-widening project, and temporarily disturb approximately 0.8 acre organics/soil/debris removal, grading, the addition and compaction of fill materials, and the movement of construction vehicles and heavy equipment. Workers would access the project site from NW Cornelius Pass Road.

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/ Zach Gustafson

Zach Gustafson
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Reviewed by:

/s/ Dave Kennedy

Dave Kennedy
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 20, 2014

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 project site is located on BPA fee-owned ROW northeast of the City of Hillsboro adjacent to NW Cornelius Pass Road and BPA's Keeler Substation. The project site has been previously disturbed with evidence of fill and grading. Existing vegetation is primarily non-native forbs and grasses, and invasive weeds. Much of the site has been cleared and is regularly mowed to accommodate the transmission lines and towers present on the site. The surrounding landscape includes active farming and suburban development.

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> Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence with no effect determination July 2, 2014. Tribes consulted: the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon concurrence with no effect determination June 9, 2014. Cowlitz Indian Tribe requested inclusion of Inadvertent Discovery plan June 27, 2014.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u></p> <p>✓ In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> One acre of permanent disturbance for new turn lane, bicycle lane, and sidewalk.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u></p> <p>✓ Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federally-listed or state special-status plant species are present. One acre of non-native forbs and grasses, and invasive weeds to be removed.</p>		

Mitigation:

- ✓ Reseed disturbed areas with a regionally appropriate seed mix and apply mulch.

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Explanation: No special-status species or designated habitat present. Project area has been previously disturbed for road construction.

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

Explanation: Rock Creek, which was designated critical habitat for steelhead and contains coho and steelhead, is located approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the project site. No in-water work is proposed, and no riparian habitat would be affected. Project may affect listed steelhead and coho in Rock Creek due to creation and discharge of stormwater runoff from new areas of impervious roadway. The County would design and build the project in conformance with the terms and conditions of NOAA Fisheries programmatic biological opinion on Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES V).

Mitigation:

- ✓ Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.
- ✓ Do not allow petroleum products, sediment, and other deleterious materials (i.e. concrete wash out) to enter any stream.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present on BPA fee-owned ROW.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately seven feet.

Mitigation:

- ✓ Ensure spill containment and cleanup materials are readily available at the project site, staging areas, and in construction vehicles and equipment. Replace any used spill response material within 24 hours.

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

Explanation: All work on existing BPA fee-owned ROW. Project area has been previously disturbed for road construction.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The new turn lane, bicycle lane, and sidewalk would be visually consistent with existing development.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction activities.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary, intermittent noise from construction activities during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Completion of the project is expected to increase safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

Mitigation:

✓ Ensure spill containment and cleanup materials are readily available at the project site, staging areas, and in construction vehicles and equipment. Replace any used spill response material within 24 hours

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: No notification – all work on BPA fee-owned property and no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Zachary Gustafson
Zachary Gustafson – KEC-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: November 20, 2014