

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross Substation Property - Ellen Davis Trail Reroute

Project No.: LURR 19880438-Amendment #1

Project Manager: Dawneen Dosert TERR-LMT

Location: Clark County, Washington

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the Chinook Trail Association to reroute sections of a City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation multi-use trail within BPA's fee-owned right-of-way adjacent to the Ross Substation in Clark County, Washington. The trail reroute would be approximately 0.24 mile in length and would entail constructing 4-10 foot wide gravel or dirt pathways near the southeast corner of the Ross Substation. Pathway construction would be conducted by hand and heavy equipment. Additional activities would include brushing vegetation and spreading straw and grass seed on areas with soil erosion. Work is planned to occur during this winter or early spring (2014/2015), weather permitting. The purpose of the project is to reroute a segment of the trail through a stand of trees to restore a forested trail experience and move another segment away from 54th Street to increase user safety.

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 A 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/ Brenda Aguirre

Brenda Aguirre
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 18, 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 site is located in a residential area adjacent to Ross Substation. The proposed actions would occur on an area of lawn and within a forested area of multiple-aged fir and cedar trees along a hill side.

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> WA SHPO concurrence on a no historic properties affected determination 11/19/14. No response received from Cowlitz Indian Tribe.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal ground disturbance. (Site visit with C. Robinson TEST-MODA 9/1/14.)</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Only grasses and brush removed, no trees; no listed plant species present.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Low-quality habitat; project outside the range of listed species.</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> Project outside range of listed fish species; no aquatic habitat within or near site.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation:

None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation:

None present.

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

Explanation:

Residential and forested areas would not be altered rerouting trail segments.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation:

Residential and forested visual quality would be enhanced by rerouting trail segments through a stand of trees.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation:

Air quality would not be altered by the temporary increase in emissions and dust from the use of heavy equipment or motor vehicles used to reroute trail segments.

11. **Noise**

Explanation:

Present noise levels would not be altered by the temporary, intermittent noise from the heavy equipment and motor vehicles used to reroute trail segments.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation:

Human health and safety would benefit from the rerouting of the trail away from 54th street.

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 fee owned right-of-way.

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

Signed: /s/ Brenda Aguirre

Date: December 18, 2014