

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Coyote Springs-Boardman Fiber Project

PP&A No.: 2066

Project Manager: Glenn Van Bergen

Location: Morrow County, Oregon

Line Corridor	TRS	County, State	Land Ownership
Coyote Springs Generation Plant Substation			Private
McNary-Coyote Springs			City of Boardman
Boardman-Tower Rd.	T4N R25E Sections 10 & 11	Morrow, Oregon	Port of Morrow
Boardman Tap-McNary-Jones Canyon			Private
Boardman Substation			Federal property

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 Fiber optic cable

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action includes installation of approximately 3.4 miles of new buried and overhead fiber optic cable. The Coyote Springs-Boardman Fiber project is project is composed of two segments. For Segment No. 1, the first 6,900 feet will be located above ground suspended from two new wood poles (near the Coyote Springs control house) and seven existing BPA double circuit 500kV McNary-Coyote Springs No. 1 structures AMH 1 through 7. The last 2,300 feet of Segment No. 1 into Boardman Substation will be located underground adjacent to the Boardman-Tower Road No. 1 transmission corridor.

For Segment No. 2, only the first two spans (approximately 900 feet) will be located above ground suspended from two new wood poles (near the Coyote Springs control house) and one existing BPA double circuit 500kV transmission tower (AMH 1). The remaining 300 feet of Segment No. 2 into Boardman Substation will be located underground adjacent to the McNary-Coyote Springs No. 1 and Boardman Tap to McNary-Jones Canyon No. 1 transmission corridors. Directional boring will be needed to go under an existing railroad spur, Columbia Blvd., and several utilities.

A total of 10 new 4 foot x 4 foot imbedded concrete vaults would be installed. These would be located near existing towers and substations. The physical process of cable replacement requires reeling (pulling in or removal of) fiber optic cable. This process is conducted from temporary pulling/tensioning (PT) sites in the existing rights-of-way (ROW). A total of three PT sites have been identified. All towers and structures will need to be accessed to hang travelers for either new fiber cable to be reeled in or

reeled out. Structures would be accessed from utility line boom trucks under an outage. Utility vehicles would access structure sites and utilize the existing structure landings.

Four new fiber optic wood poles (FOWPs) that would carry the fiber optic cable range from between 50 and 70 feet tall. Poles may require guy wires to maintain structure stability. Where necessary guy wires are attached to the poles and secured to steel plate anchors which are buried in the ground. Four new FOWPs are scheduled to be needed which will be located adjacent Coyote Springs Substation or adjacent steel lattice towers.

No in-water work is planned for this project, nor will soils be temporarily side-cast into waters of the state. This upgrade will provide needed digital communications capacity and redundancy for BPA transmission and communication system needs. The 3 month project is proposed to begin in September 2016.

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/ Kevin George
Kevin George
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: February 17, 2016

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: Coyote Springs-Boardman Fiber Project

Project Site Description

The project traverses an industrial park where the underlying land is either privately owned or managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Morrow, or by the City of Boardman. Land cover types crossed include: highly disturbed flat steppe/scrub-shrub lands.

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"/>

Explanation:

BPA made a final determination of effect of no impact to historic properties on January 6, 2016 and consulted with OR SHPO and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The 30-day comment period expired with no comments returned from any of the consulting parties. Operational procedures to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery will be provided to the construction contractors.

2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation:

The construction contractor for this project will develop an erosion and sediment control plan describing what erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized to protect disturbed soils from wind and rain during and after construction. BMPs are to be selected from the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington, Chapter 7 – Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention, Publication No. 04-10-076, September 2004 (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/0410076.pdf>) or most current.

Where possible, from open trench excavations, vault and bore hole locations, and at new pole/anchor sites, collect the top 6 inches of soil and set aside for restoration purposes. Keep salvaged topsoil's segregated from subsoils.

Any disturbed soils are to be graded to contour and properly stabilized. The restoration seed mix for this project was developed using Table 7.3.2 of the Stormwater Management Manual for upland areas with less than 12" precipitation and includes a sterile triticale guard seed for late season planting. Utilize slow release organic fertilizer, and a seasonally appropriate weed free mulch and tackifier or erosion control blanket (ECB).

Provide adequately stocked oil spill response kits in all construction equipment.

A fracking blowout plan will be developed by the contractor to address any potential problems related to using directional boring fluids.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)

Explanation: This project requires no tree clearing. All construction equipment will be thoroughly cleaned prior to coming onto project sites to remove weed seeds, vegetative matter, soils, oil and greases. Construction vehicles leaving areas of areas known noxious weeds (Kochia) are to be cleaned prior to leaving the construction site to limit the off-site spread of weeds.

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

Explanation: Upon review, it was determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project area for listed wildlife species.

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

Explanation: This project requires no in-water or work within floodplains, no tree removal, nor any new roads or landings. Where determined to be necessary, erosion control BMPs will be used. Upon review, it was determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project area for listed fish species.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands will be impacted by this project. Where determined to be necessary, erosion control BMPs will be used. NWI wetlands will be shown on project photo maps and provided to the construction contractor.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be present on site during construction. No new wells or use of groundwater proposed. Proposed fiber boring, vault and pole excavation would not be deep enough to intercept groundwater.

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

Explanation: This project takes place within existing transmission line corridors. The largest land manager in this area is the Port of Morrow who manages the industrial business park. This project will not change the land uses currently in this area. Additionally there are no parcels within the project area having special designation.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The project will not significantly alter or effect visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: There will be small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction which will be temporary and insignificant. Utilize dust prevention measures to limit dust impacting adjacent business and highways.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours may include helicopter use. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: A Site Specific Safety Plan will be prepared for workers on this project. Appropriate signage and/or flagging will be used to alert vehicle to construction activities.

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: Notification letters that construction will occur were sent to all landowners and land managers within and along the rights-of-way on November 1, 2015 for a 60 day comment period. No comments regarding the project were received. BPA contacted Federal and state land managers to discuss this project. The construction contractor shall re-contact impacted leaseholders and land managers prior to beginning construction activities.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George

Kevin George/EPI

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: February 17, 2016