

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Land Use Agreement for Driveway Expansion in the Ross-Lexington Transmission Line Corridor

LURR No.: 20160174

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert, 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: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to issue a Land Use Agreement that would allow an adjacent landowner (Applicant) permission to use a portion of the BPA Ross-Lexington transmission line corridor for a driveway expansion. The Applicant is requesting access to a 50 ft. by 80 ft. portion of BPA land approximately 200 ft. ahead on line of structure 5/2. The requested area is 0.09 acre, and is located along the eastern edge of the transmission line corridor. The Applicant proposes to: 1) remove a row of 20-25 arbor vitae shrubs that are on the BPA/Applicant property line, and 2) lay new gravel on top of a remnant gravel road that is currently overgrown with weeds, grasses, and low-growing blackberry bushes.

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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Date: June 8, 2016

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

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 area is located immediately north of NE Corbin Road, at the intersection of NE Corbin Road and NE 39th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington. The site is on BPA's Ross-Lexington transmission corridor, which is a currently maintained right-of-way. The area is primarily rural residential with some agricultural fields and riparian corridors.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> On April 25, 2016, the BPA archaeologist determined that this undertaking would not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Therefore, Section 106 consultation was not initiated.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Dominant soils in the region are Mollisols, and the dominant condition sub-order is Xerolls. No grading is proposed and minimal soil disturbance would occur in removing the arbor vitae. The proposed project area is relatively flat and erosion concerns are not anticipated.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species present. Existing gravel road on BPA parcel is currently overgrown with native and non-native grasses and weeds, including but not limited to: common chickweed, broadleaf plantain, purselane, purple deadnettle, dandelion, and blackberry.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species present, and no designated critical habitat within the project area. Approximately 0.09 acre of habitat would be altered as a result of this proposed project.		
5. Waterbodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies are present within the proposed project area; therefore, no fish are present in the project area. The nearest waterbody is Salmon Creek, and it is approximately 1,050 ft. northwest of the proposed project area. The nearest FEMA Q3 floodplain is also associated with Salmon Creek and is over 1,000 ft. away from the project area.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present within the proposed project area. The nearest wetland, a freshwater emergent wetland, is approximately 2,000 ft. to the south of the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No ground disturbance (i.e., grading, new well, or trenching) or groundwater usage has been proposed with this project. Groundwater and aquifers would not be impacted as a result of this project.

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

Explanation: There is no special land use designation in the proposed project area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The removal of the arbor vitae and application of new gravel to expand the driveway would not significantly change the visual quality of the area. There are many mature trees surrounding the proposed project area that would maintain the overall forested vegetative appearance in the area.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No impact to air quality would be expected as a result of this proposed project.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No impact to noise quality would be expected as a result of this proposed project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety would be expected as a result of this proposed project.

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: The proposed project area is on BPA fee-owned property.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill

Date: June 8, 2016

Becky Hill, ECT-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC