

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** NW Natural Pipeline Installation

**LURR No.:** 20160376

**Project Manager:** Dawneen Dostert – TERR-LMT

**Location:** Clark County, WA

**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) is proposing to allow NW Natural to install pipeline within BPA transmission line right-of-way (ROW). The 8-inch pipeline would be buried at a depth of 5 feet near structure 5/2 on the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line. The pipeline would be buried along NE Corbin Road for approximately 240 feet and then continue south onto NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue for 460 feet. After that, the pipeline would leave BPA ROW.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping*

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 9, 2016

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:** NW Natural Pipeline Installation - LURR 20160376

---

### Project Site Description

The site is located at NE Corbin Road and NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue near structure 5/2 on the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line on fee-owned ROW in Clark County, Washington. The project area where pipeline installation would occur is paved with asphalt. The project vicinity is mostly residential with scattered undeveloped areas.

### 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> The proposed activities do not have the potential to affect historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is currently paved with asphalt, which would be temporarily removed for pipeline installation. The 8-inch pipeline would be buried at a depth of 5 feet for a total of approximately 700 linear feet.		
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. No disturbance to vegetation would occur.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is not suitable for wildlife habitat; therefore, no disturbance to wildlife would occur.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present.		

- |   |                                     |                          |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance is within 5 feet below ground surface. |                                     |                          |
| 8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No change to land use is proposed.  |                                     |                          |
| 9. <b>Visual Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No change to appearance is proposed.  |                                     |                          |
| 10. <b>Air Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Small, temporary amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.                              |                                     |                          |
| 11. <b>Noise</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary increase in noise would occur during construction.  |                                     |                          |
| 12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impact to human health and safety anticipated.   |                                     |                          |

### 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: Not applicable; all work within BPA ROW.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Date: August 9, 2016

Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4

Environmental Protection Specialist