

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Allston-Clatsop No. 1 (12/2-13/4) Access Road Maintenance

PP&A No.: 3498

Project Manager: Richard Ross – Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

Location: Columbia County, Oregon

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
07N	05W	11	Columbia, OR	PRIVATE
07N	05W	12	Columbia, OR	PRIVATE
07N	05W	13	Columbia, OR	PRIVATE
07N	05W	14	Columbia, OR	PRIVATE

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to perform routine maintenance along the access roads and structure spur roads of the Allston-Clatsop No. 1 transmission line, between structures 12/2 and 13/4. Access road work would include: adding two landings, one new culvert, four ditch reliefs, four drain dips, and 13 waterbars; cleaning one culvert; performing minor blading, shaping, grading, and adding rock (improvements) to approximately 7,550 feet of existing serviceable access and structure spur roads; clearing and grubbing 525 feet of road; mowing 8,700 feet of road; and reconstructing approx. 1,800 feet of road. General equipment used for this type of project includes mowers, graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

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 – EPI-4

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 4, 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: Allston-Clatsop No. 1 (12/2-13/4) Access Road Maintenance

Project Site Description

Proposed maintenance activities are located in a section of access road for the Allston-Clatsop No. 1 transmission line, between structures 12/2 and 13/4, that is approximately 1.6 miles east of Clatskanie, OR, and 2.5 miles south of the Columbia River. There are no National Wetland Inventory waterbodies that intersect the project site. Elevation (above mean sea level) within the project site ranges from approximately 340 to 860 feet. The project proposes to clean one culvert conveying an intermittent stream; otherwise, it does not cross any drainages. The project site and surrounding areas are privately owned. Vegetation in the project site is primarily grasses and shrubs. Land use in the surrounding area includes forestland, and scattered, semi-rural/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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources review was conducted by Historical Research Associates July 19, 2016; OR SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination was issued September 27, 2016. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were consulted – no response.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within the existing road prisms and at new landing installations. Minimal soil disturbance is proposed; any soil cut from the landing locations would be sidecast in thin layers so growth of existing vegetation would not be inhibited. Excess soils shall not be sidecast into wetlands, drainage ditches, or water bodies. Erosion control measures would be used. Stabilization would include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species present; road improvements would be limited to the existing road prism and to the new landings. Approximately 0.26 acre of previously disturbed grasses and shrubs may be removed or disturbed. Disturbed areas would be reseeded.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitat present; existing road prism and surrounding area under transmission line is low-quality habitat.		

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



Explanation: There is one unnamed, potentially perennial stream (tributary to Fall Creek) within the project; the culvert that conveys this stream under the access road is slated for cleaning. No other water bodies intersect the project site. Due to steep grades within and downstream of the project (greater than 20%), this stream has no federal special-status fish presence within the project footprint. To minimize impacts from sediments to downstream listed fish, culvert cleaning would be conducted when the stream is dry or, if water is present, the stream would be isolated using sandbags and if necessary, bypassed during the cleaning activity.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no mapped National Wetland Inventory wetlands that overlap with the project site. A wetland was identified during a site visit at the CU-2 culvert inlet and outlet, which is scheduled for cleaning. Removal/fill actions that meet the Oregon Department of State Lands and US Army Corps of Engineers maintenance exemptions would be necessary to clean this culvert using a bucket excavator. Material removed from the inlet and/or outlet of the culvert would be thinly spread in adjacent upland areas. The amount of material removed would be limited to the minimum necessary to clean the culvert inlet and outlet, and areas beyond the culvert inlet and outlet would be completely avoided.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Groundwater would not be affected by proposed road improvement activities; no new groundwater wells or use of groundwater proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would not exceed existing road fill.

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



Explanation: All proposed road improvements would occur within the footprints of the existing roads or transmission line and are consistent with existing land use; no specially designated areas are located within the project site.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All improvements would be at ground level and are limited to existing road prisms and the area immediately surrounding the transmission lines.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected for a short duration due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise is expected for a short duration from road improvement activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields would result from the 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 project is located entirely on private land. No public land agencies were contacted. Notification letters that construction will occur would be sent to all landowners prior to work.

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

Environmental Protection Specialist – EPI-4

Date: October 4, 2016