

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Temporary Gravel Pad and Remediation Equipment in the North Bonneville–Ross Transmission Line Right-of-Way

LURR No.: 20160362

Project Manager: Dawneen Dostert, TERR-3

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: BPA is proposing to allow the applicant, Kenan Advantage Group, Inc., to temporarily use BPA fee-owned property for staging and work associated with remediating an adjacent gasoline spill. The work on BPA property would include grading and graveling an approximately 40 feet by 10 feet equipment pad to store a soil vapor extraction and air sparge remediation system (approximately 35 feet by 8 feet by 9 feet tall). Some low growing shrubs and trees may need to be removed to accommodate the pad. Once the remediation project is complete (anticipated completion in 2019), the soil vapor extraction and air sparge remediation system and gravel would be removed from the BPA property. The site would be restored and reseeded.

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/ David K. Kennedy for
Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 27, 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.

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Project Site Description

The gravel pad would be within BPA’s North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 transmission line right-of-way; between structures 31/2 and 31/3, approximately 25 feet south of NE 18th Street, near the intersection of NE 18th Street and NE 119th Avenue, in Vancouver, Washington. The site is managed right-of-way with low-growing deciduous trees, dense shrubs and grasses. The surrounding area is suburban residential. No wetlands or water bodies are within or near the project area.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA archaeologist visited the proposed project site and determined that it has been previously disturbed by the construction of a large paved road (18th Street), the installation of drainage infrastructure, and several overhead and underground utilities. BPA has determined that this is the type of activity that has minimal potential to cause effects to historic properties. No disturbance will extend below the vertical or beyond the horizontal limits of previous construction or disturbance.</p> <p>In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity would stop, the area would be secured, and the SHPO and the environmental project lead would be notified to determine next steps.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project area is on a shallow slope and may need to be graded. If so, best management practices (BMPs) for temporary erosion and sediment control would be implemented.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Vegetation in the project area is comprised of relatively low-growing deciduous trees, dense shrubs and grasses in the managed ROW (i.e. filbert trees, apple trees, hawthorn, big leaf maple saplings, elderberry, native and non-native blackberry, thimbleberry, and native and non-native grasses). There are no documented occurrences of any plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed plant species. Upon project completion and gravel removal, the project area where vegetation would likely parish, should be revegetated by the applicant with a locally sourced native seed mix to minimize invasion of non-native weed species and prevent erosion.</p>		

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



Explanation: Disruption of normal wildlife behavior may occur from temporary elevated noise and human presence. Due to the suburban nature of the project area, most wildlife in the area are already accustomed to disturbance. There are no documented occurrences of any wildlife species listed under the ESA, nor is there suitable habitat for any ESA-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat in the project area. Therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat.

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



Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains or fish bearing aquatic habitats within half mile of the proposed project site in this suburban area. There is a small drainage ditch between the project area and 18th Street. BMPs for temporary erosion and sediment control would be implemented; water bodies, floodplains and fish would not be impacted.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands within half mile of the proposed project site in this suburban area. BMPs for temporary erosion and sediment control would be implemented; wetland would not be impacted.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed.

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



Explanation: No change to land use is proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The gravel equipment pad would temporarily house a soil vapor extraction and air sparge unit (approximately 93 cubic yards). This equipment would temporarily disrupt the visual quality of the project area. Upon project completion and gravel removal, the project area would be revegetated by the applicant to minimize long-term visual impacts of bare soil where grasses would likely parrish.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during gravel pad construction. Per the applicant, the remediation equipment would not contain sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), a greenhouse gas that BPA regulates on BPA fee-owned property. BMPs would be implemented to reduce emissions and dust levels.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise would increase in the local area during the gravel pad construction and remediation equipment installation. Once in place, the remediation equipment is expected to operate 24 hours per day, and 7 days per week. The nearest residence is approximately 100 ft. northwest from the unit's proposed location. The applicant would implement BMPs to reduce noise levels.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The applicant shall closely monitor the status of the activated carbon treatment vessels (regarding the need to replace the carbon) and ensure they are sent off-site for reactivation or proper disposal in accordance with applicable regulations.

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 applicant is currently coordinating with adjacent landowners, including the Mission Hills Apartments, and the City of Vancouver. The proposed project 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 Hil
Becky Hill
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: October 27, 2016