

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Idaho Power Cable Installation at Canal Substation

LURR No.: 20160351

Project Manager: Joseph Cottrell II – TERR-TRI CITIES RMHQ

Location: Cassia County, ID

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 Idaho Power Company to install a portion of an underground cable route across BPA property at BPA's Canal Substation in Cassia County, Idaho. The cables and markers for line identification would be installed in a 30-inch deep trench for a distance of 170 feet across the BPA property. The trench would be backfilled and compacted. The work would occur outside of the substation yard.

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/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 17, 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.

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Project Site Description

The site is located at BPA’s Canal Substation. The project area where cable installation would occur is used as access to existing transmission line towers and is near the north entrance into the substation yard. The project area has been heavily disturbed by ongoing vehicle use. The project vicinity is mostly in agricultural use with some undeveloped areas and scattered residences.

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"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> The proposed activities fall under conditions described in Appendix A of the <i>Programmatic Agreement Among the Bonneville Power Administration (U.S. Department of Energy), The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and The State Historic Preservation Office of Idaho Regarding BPA Transmission System Maintenance</i> . Undertakings described in Appendix A have been determined to have no potential to cause effects to historic properties and will be included in the annual report.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> The trench for the cable installation would be 30-inch deep and 170 feet long within the fee-owned ROW. The soils in this location have previously been disturbed.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> Minimal disturbance to vegetation proposed. No special-status species are present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> The project area is not suitable for wildlife habitat; therefore, no disturbance to wildlife would occur.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> No wetlands are present.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

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

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

Explanation: No change to land use is proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change to visual quality is proposed.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during trenching.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary vehicle noise would occur during trenching.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety are 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.

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
Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4

Date: November 17, 2016