

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: City of Camas North Shore Sewer Transmission System (NS-STS) Installation at North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line Right-of-Way

LURR No.: 20160208

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the City of Camas to install a new sewer line and fiber optic cable on BPA fee-owned property as part of the City's NS-STS project, located in Camas, Washington.

Approximately 475 linear feet of the 4.5-mile long NS-STS sewer line would cross BPA's fee-owned North Bonneville-Ross transmission line No. 1 and No. 2 rights-of-way. The disturbance area would be about 200 feet wide and 475 feet long. Within the disturbance area, a new dual 6-inch diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) sewer line and a new 2-inch fiber optic cable conduit would be installed within a 5-foot wide open-cut trench and approximately 6 feet underground. OMNI marker balls would be installed approximately 3.5 feet below the ground's surface to facilitate future pipeline locating efforts. The trench would have a 30-foot wide construction corridor to allow for construction equipment. The construction corridor would be located between an unpaved access road to the east and a delineated wetland to the west. Some low growing shrubs and a single 17-inch Douglas-fir tree would be removed to accommodate the construction equipment.

Some grading in the construction corridor may be required to create a flat surface for the construction equipment to operate. Rock material from a quarry would be installed to a depth of about one foot above the sewer line and conduit, and trench spoils would be used to backfill the remainder of the trench. Excess dirt would be spread around on the ground within the construction corridor, and disturbed soils would be revegetated upon project completion.

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/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 7, 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: City of Camas NS-STS Installation at North Bonneville-Ross Transmission Line ROW

Project Site Description

The NS-STS would cross BPA’s fee-owned North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and 2 transmission line ROW, near structures 26/2 in Camas, Washington. The project area is a managed ROW with low growing shrubs and grasses, and large, established conifer trees on the northern and southern borders of the ROW. The 30-foot wide construction swath would be situated between an unpaved access road on an elevated berm to the east and a wetland, downhill and to the east. The area surrounding the project area is comprised of riparian forests and wetlands associated with Lacamas Creek. Lacamas Lake is approximately 1,000 feet south of the project area. Rural residences and open fields are also located in the area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Archaeological Investigations Northwest (AINW) initiated Section 106 consultation for the entire NS-STS project area (including the BPA fee-owned segment) on August 2, 2016 with Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the following tribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalwater Bay Tribe • Nez Perce Tribe • Cowlitz Indian Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon • Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community • Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation • Chinook Indian Tribe <p>The BPA archaeologist sent a Determination of Effect letter based on AINW’s cultural resources survey of the BPA fee-owned segment to Washington DAHP and the above mentioned tribes on October 21, 2016. BPA did not receive comments from any of the notified tribes. The WA DAHP concurred with BPA’s No Historic Properties Affected determination on November 8, 2016. BPA submitted a Monitoring Plan and agreed to have a Cultural Monitor present during ground disturbance activities per WA DAHP’s concurrence comments.</p>		
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The applicant would implement best management practices (BMPs) for temporary erosion and sediment control. Maximum trench depth would be 6 feet.</p>		
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: Vegetation in the project area is comprised of relatively low-growing, dense shrubs in a managed ROW (Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, *Lupine* spp., vetch, holly, bracken fern, snowberry, and native and

non-native grasses, including the invasive reed canary grass). Established, large conifers line the northern and southern ROW boundary lines, and a single 17-inch Douglas-fir located just inside the northern BPA ROW boundary would need to be removed for this project. Threatened and endangered botanical surveys were performed during the 2016 blooming period by the applicant's contractor. There are no documented occurrences of any plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area and a No Effect Memo was filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed plant species.

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, but not at a significant level or duration. Migratory birds may use the 17-inch Douglas-fir for nesting so the tree should not be removed between February 1 and July 31. Threatened and endangered wildlife non-protocol pedestrian surveys were performed during 2015 and 2016 by the applicant's contractor. There are no documented occurrences or suitable habitat for any wildlife species listed under the ESA in the project area and a No Effect Memo was filed with USACE; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed wildlife species.

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

Explanation: Lacamas Creek and associated floodplains are located approximately 800 feet downhill and to the west of the proposed project area. The applicant would implement BMPs for temporary erosion and sediment control.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: One freshwater emergent wetland and one freshwater forested/shrub wetland are located approximately 8 feet and 150 feet from the proposed project area. The applicant would implement BMPs for temporary erosion and sediment control.

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 sewer line would be located underground; therefore, no permanent or significant change to visual quality would occur.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during construction activities. BMPs would be implemented to reduce emissions and dust levels.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary noise would increase in the local area during the sewer line installation project activities. Once in place, there would not be any noticeable operational noise. BMPs would be implemented to reduce the temporary construction noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No health and safety impacts as a result of this project would occur.

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 City of Camas is holding public hearings for their North Shore Sewer Transmission System project.

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
Becky Hill
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: December 7, 2016