Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Salmon Creek (LURR 20180295)

Project No.: 20180295

Project Manager: Charlene Belt—TERR-3

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) proposes to allow Kessi Engineering (Kessi) to install a low-pressure sanitary pipe through BPA's Ross-Lexington-No. 1 transmission right-of-way (ROW). A 15-foot wide by approximately 250-foot long easement would be granted to Kessi to install a 2-inch PVC pipe in the access road that crosses the ROW. A 3-foot deep by 2-foot wide by 250-foot long trench would be dug in the road prism. The excavated soils would be used to refill the trench after the pipe has been installed. Additionally, a non-fish passage culvert would be removed and reinstalled to accommodate the sanitary pipe installation.

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, Jul. 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/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ David K. Kennedy
Dave Kennedy
Executive Manager, Environmental Planning & Analysis

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel Date: *September 10, 2019*
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

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 proposed project is in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. The project is occurring in Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 1 East. BPA's fee-owned right-of-way that the project crosses is developed with the transmission line and a dirt access road. Washington State University—Vancouver campus is located to the west and a large parcel to the east is proposed to be developed as a new housing addition.

Salmon Creek is located 0.10 miles east of the project location. The project area is unvegetated. The topography is relatively flat. Wetlands border BPA's access road to the north and south.

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**	☑	☐
Explanation: On May 7, 2019, Section 106 consultation was initiated with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). On the same day, DAHP concurred with BPA's Area of Potential Effect (APE) to be surveyed. On July 30, BPA sent a no effect determination letter to the consulting parties. DAHP concurred on the same day. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe requested that an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) be included with the project approval. BPA will provide an IDP to the project proponent. As of August 30, 2019, the Grand Ronde has not responded.		
2. **Geology and Soils**	☑	☐
Explanation: During construction, all appropriate best management practices would be used to implement site-specific erosion and sediment control. Excavated soils would be reused to fill the trench after the sanitary pipe is installed.		
3. **Plants** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	☑	☐
Explanation: There is no vegetation in the project area; therefore, there would be no impacts to Federal/state special-status or non-listed plants.		
4. **Wildlife** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	☑	☐
Explanation: There are no occurrence records of Federal/state special-status species in the project vicinity. Construction activities may temporarily displace non-listed wildlife but there would be no long-term impacts to wildlife.		

5.	**Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish** (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	☑	☐

Explanation: Best management practices (BMPs) would be used to prevent erosion of soils that could lead to sedimentation of water bodies. There are no floodplains or fish habitat in the project area. The project would have no impacts on water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6.	**Wetlands**	☐	☑

Explanation: There are delineated wetlands to the north and south of the access road on which the project would occur.

The following avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacting the wetlands:

- excavated soils would not be sidecast into the wetland, and
- sedimentation fencing would be installed between the road and wetland.

7.	**Groundwater and Aquifers**	☑	☐

Explanation: The project is unlikely to impact groundwater and aquifers. The maximum depth of disturbance would be 3 feet.

8.	**Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas**	☑	☐

Explanation: Installation of a sanitary pipe would be compatible with the existing use of the utility ROW and access road. There are no specially-designated areas near the project location.

9.	**Visual Quality**	☑	☐

Explanation: The project would not change the visual quality of the location.

10.	**Air Quality**	☑	☐

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11.	**Noise**	☑	☐

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

12.	**Human Health and Safety**	☑	☐

Explanation: Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

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: There are no occupied residences near the project location that would require notification.

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

Signed: */s/ Beth Belanger* Date: *September 10, 2019*

Beth Belanger, ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC