

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Ginn Development Pedestrian Trail

**Project No.:** LURR 20190256

**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 proposes to allow applicant to construct a six foot wide gravel pedestrian pathway on the Bonneville right-of-way connecting to an existing trail located next to a suburban housing subdivision. The applicant proposes to overlay four inches of compacted gravel over the top of native compacted subgrade. The applicant would seek to remove a section of fencing in the right-of-way to connect the path to the existing trail. The applicant would also install two removable bollards in the right-of-way to prevent vehicles from driving onto the path. The right-of-way involved is between the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard No. 1 transmission line and the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 transmission line near structure 4/2 of the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard No. 1 line.

**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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 16, 2020

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:** Ginn Development Pedestrian Trail

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## Project Site Description

The installation of the pedestrian pathway would be on maintained BPA right-of-way located in Clark County, WA. The legal parcel is in Township 2 N, Range 1 E, and Section DC43. The surrounding topography consists of suburban residential and commercial development with some greenway areas next to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

The nearest water body is Burnt Bridge Creek located about 150 feet to the southwest and west of the existing paved access road in the right-of-way. Emergent freshwater wetland areas are located adjacent to Burnt Bridge Creek and extend up to 50 feet southwest of the existing paved access road that would connect with the proposed pedestrian pathway.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the installation of the pedestrian pathway do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources. WA SHPO concurred with the Determination of No Historic Properties Affected on December 17, 2020. The Cowlitz tribe was consulted and requested copies of inadvertent discovery language are retained on site while project activity is underway. In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA will require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by the appropriate consulting parties.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be some soil disturbance for installation of the pedestrian pathway and bollards. Some digging is expected for the new pathway and bollards. Best management practices for dust and erosion control will be utilized.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would be occurring in the BPA right-of-way that is currently managed for low growing vegetation. There are no listed or special-status species present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The work would be in established BPA right-of-way. No trees would be removed, and the site is not identified to provide northern spotted owl habitat or nesting sites. Construction of the pedestrian pathway is expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed or special-status species.		

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



Explanation: The nearest water is Burnt Bridge Creek located about 150 feet southwest of the project site and west of the existing paved access road in the right-of-way. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be near the creek.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Emergent freshwater wetland areas are located about 75 feet west of the proposed pedestrian pathway and 50 feet from the existing paved pathway. Project activities will avoid the wetland areas. Best management practices for dust and erosion control will also be utilized.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The shallow digging for the pedestrian pathway and bollards would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be some enhanced pathway for pedestrian traffic with the installation of the project and removal of a section of fencing. Installation of bollards will help prevent vehicle traffic on the pedestrian path.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts expected.

### **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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Realty is in coordination with the applicant for this project.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey  
Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4

Date: January 16, 2020