

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross-Lexington Road, Water, and Sewer Project

Project No.: LURR 20200171

Project Manager: Charlene Belt, TERR-ROSS MHQA

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: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow M & H Subdivision (M&H) to install a paved asphalt road, buried sewer, water, and electric service lines, and improve an existing gravel driveway on BPA fee-owned land in Clark County, Washington.

M&H would acquire a 46-foot wide and approximately 330-foot-long S-shaped easement across the right-of-way (ROW) of the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line to install a 28-foot-wide asphalt road connecting a new subdivision to the west with an existing public road to the east. Within and adjacent to the road prism, the applicant proposes to install an 8-inch-diameter sewer line, a water line, and electrical line conduit at a depth of four to ten feet below surface. The applicant also proposes to repair and upgrade an existing gravel road to the north of the proposed asphalt road, which crosses the ROW before following the eastern edge north to NE 114th Street. Equipment for this project would consist of dump trucks, pavers, backhoe and excavating equipment.

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/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange

Katey C. Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

November 16, 2020

date

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: Ross-Lexington Road, Water, and Sewer Project

Project Site Description

The installation of a new road, water, and sewer would be on maintained, fee-owned, BPA right-of-way located in Clark County, Washington. The project is located in Township 03N, Range 01E, and Section 13. The ROW consists of agricultural land and the surrounding land use is suburban residential. A wetland was identified by the applicant approximately 475 feet to the west of the project area outside the ROW.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities. On October 06, 2020, a determination of effects letter of no adverse effect to historic properties was sent to the following consulting parties: the Washington Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation Office (DAHP), the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of effects on October 08, 2020, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde concurred on November 05, 2020. No further comments were received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be a moderate amount of soil disturbance for the installation of the new road, water, and sewer. Some digging at a depth of about 8 feet is expected. Following construction, some minimal areas of soil disturbance may remain, which would be stabilized and seeded. Work would be occurring in the established BPA right-of-way.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary, moderate, ground disturbance is anticipated. 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. Following construction, some minimal areas of soil disturbance may remain, which would be stabilized and seeded.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would be in established BPA right-of-way. Construction of the road, water, and sewer is expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed, special-status species, or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish within the general vicinity of the project area. The project activities would not impact these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A wetland was identified by the applicant approximately 475 feet to the west of the project area outside the ROW. The project activities would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The shallow digging involved would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in the general land use or specially-designated areas as a result of the project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some visual changes to the project area and adjacent environment due to the installation of the road, water, and sewer. The visual changes would be consistent with the general surroundings of the existing transmission line ROW and associated access roads, and suburban residential subdivisions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur temporarily during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected for this area as a result of this project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to human health and safety are anticipated to result from this project.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA Realty is in coordination with the adjacent landowner and easement holders.

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts November 16, 2020
Laura Roberts, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist