

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Willamette Water Supply LURRS

Project No.: 20200245, 20200247, 20200248

Project Manager: Darin Smith—TERR-ALVEY

Location: Washington County, Oregon

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 Willamette Water Supply Program, a partnership among the Tualatin Valley Water District, City of Hillsboro and City of Beaverton, to construct, operate and maintain a buried water supply pipeline at several locations on BPA's fee-owned rights-of way. Depending on the location, the trench would be excavated to a maximum width of 12 feet and a maximum depth of 19 feet to install a 48- to 66-inch-diameter pipeline. After installation of the pipe, crushed rock and excavated soil from the site, would be used to backfill around the pipe.

About 900 feet of pipeline would be installed on BPA fee-owned property. The water pipeline installation would occur at the following locations:

20200245: Section 28, Township 2 South, Range 1 West; Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 Transmission Line; the 66-inch-diameter pipe would parallel SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road on the north side of the road.

20200247: Section 32, Township 1 South, Range 1 West; Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 Transmission Line; the 48-inch-diameter pipe would parallel SW Scholls Ferry Road on the south side of the road.

20200248: Section 23, Township 1 North, Range 2 West; Keeler-Alston No. 1 Transmission Line; the 48-inch-diameter pipe would parallel the east side of Cornelius Pass Road for approximately 500 feet and then cross under the road and continue on the west side of the road, going to the west and then north for a combined 600 feet.

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/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange November 8, 2021

Katey C. Grange Date
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.

Proposed Action: Willamette Water Supply LURRs

Project Site Description

All three of the sites are in previously-developed urban areas and are parallel to main roads. There are no wetlands or streams in any of the project areas or vicinities. The vegetation at the sites consists mostly of non-native sod grasses.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project proponent contracted Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) to conduct a cultural resources survey of the project areas. BPA cultural staff reviewed the HRA reports and conducted a background research of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) Archaeological Records Remote Access and found that all of the project locations have been previously surveyed. BPA cultural staff have determined that there would be no historic properties affected by the projects.

On July 6, 2021, BPA sent no historic properties affected determination letters with the corresponding cultural reports to SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. To date, no responses have been received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, appropriate Best Management Practices would be used to implement site-specific erosion and sediment control. Any soils leftover after backfilling would be removed from the right-of-way and disposed of at an approved landfill. If soils exhibit signs of contamination, safety and soil sampling protocols would be followed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project areas have no Federal or state special-status species or habitats. Some minor vegetation would be removed during trenching activities. Tualatin Valley Water District would be responsible for re-seeding those locations with a native seed mix.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project areas have no Federal or state special-status species or habitats. Noise from construction activities may temporarily disturb some urban wildlife but the project would not permanently remove any habitat.

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 at any of the locations that would be impacted by the project.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Tualatin Valley Water District conducted a wetland delineation for all of the sites and determined that none of these locations are in wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is unlikely to impact groundwater or aquifers. The maximum depth of disturbance would be 14 to 19 feet deep. The nearest EPA sole source aquifer is approximately 8 to 10 miles northeast. Based on geotechnical borings completed at the locations; ground water is expected to be encountered at two of the locations. Ground water dewatering systems utilizing sump pumps or well points would be maintained throughout construction activities and operated continuously (24 hours per day including weekends and holidays). Trench plugs would be used at all of the locations to prevent groundwater conveyance. The proponent's construction contractor would be required to submit a Ground Water Control Plan detailing methods used to collect, handle, treat flows, and to discharge water of the minimum quality required by local, state and federal authorities.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change to land use at the project locations. There are no specially-designated areas at any of the locations.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Willamette Water Supply pipeline would be buried below ground and therefore, would not change the visual quality at the project locations.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impact to human health and safety. To protect construction workers, trench excavations would be shored using an approved shoring system designed by a professional engineer and once installed, they would be monitored and inspected during work hours.

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 is the underlying landowner. If the project proponent identifies adjacent landowners that would need to be notified, they would be responsible for that coordination.

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

Signed: <u>/s/ Beth Belanger</u>	<u>November 8, 2021</u>
Beth Belanger, ECT-4	Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist	
Flux Resources, LLC	