

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross-Lexington No. 1 Transmission Line Sidewalk Installation (*update to CX issued on January 19, 2021*)

Project No.: LURR-20210024

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 right-of-ways

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Clark County Public Works (Clark County) to install a segment of new sidewalk on BPA fee-owned property between structures 1/7 and 2/1 on the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line right-of-way in Clark County, Washington. Clark County is requesting to install the new sidewalk south of NE 68th Street because there is no sidewalk on this segment of the roadway, and it is unsafe for pedestrians.

BPA would grant Clark County a 276-foot-long by 10-foot-wide (2,760-square-foot) easement for construction and ongoing maintenance and operation of the sidewalk south of NE 68th Street. Within the easement, Clark County contractors would pave an approximately 276-foot-long and six-foot-wide area with pervious concrete. The western portion of the project site would be graded to match the elevation of the existing roadway. Additionally, a small area of woody vegetation, which contains four western red cedar trees and several shrubs, would be cleared as part of this project. BPA would also grant Clark County a temporary Land Use Agreement for a 315-square-foot materials and equipment staging area for the duration of sidewalk construction. The staging area would be located on an existing paved and graveled BPA access road driveway, and no vegetation removal, grading, or gravelling would be required to establish the staging area.

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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel April 15, 2022

Sarah T. Biegel

Date

NEPA Compliance Officer

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 No. 1 Transmission Line Sidewalk Installation (*update to CX issued on January 19, 2021*)

Project Site Description

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned property between structures 1/7 and 2/1 on the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line in Clark County, Washington (Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Section 11). The site abuts the south side of NE 68th Street and is currently covered primarily by grasses, with an area of trees (e.g., western red cedar) and shrubs on the eastern portion of the right-of-way. The surrounding area consists of public (park) and low- and medium-density residential land uses. There are no wetlands or surface waters within or nearby the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Ross-Lexington No. 1 Transmission Line is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. However, the line's character-defining features would not be impacted visually or structurally by the proposed work, and the work area was previously modified and artificially leveled during construction of the transmission line and adjacent roadway. Therefore, a BPA archaeologist determined on December 14, 2020, that the proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be moderate soil disturbance from the installation of a new sidewalk. The maximum depth of disturbance would be three feet. Standard construction best management practices would prevent soil erosion and sedimentation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Moderate ground disturbance is anticipated. The project would occur in BPA right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. Approximately 2,445 sq. ft. grass and 315 sq. ft. of trees and shrubs would be cleared. In total, four western red cedar trees would be removed. No special-status plant species or habitats are present.

Notes:

- Reseed temporarily disturbed areas with a native, regionally-appropriate seed mix.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary wildlife disturbance could occur from construction noise. However, wildlife species that could be present in the area would likely be habituated to this level of disturbance given surrounding land uses. The work would occur in maintained BPA right-of-way. There are no special-status species or habitats present.

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 one mile of the project area. The project activities would not impact these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands within one-quarter mile of the site.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells proposed. The maximum depth of disturbance would be three feet and would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

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

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be minor visual changes to the project area due to the installation of the sidewalk and the removal of vegetation. However, the visual changes would be consistent with the existing transmission line right-of-way and surrounding residential area. The new sidewalk would match the materials and dimensions of an existing sidewalk to the east of the site. The removal of vegetation would increase the visibility of transmission structures and lines for nearby residents.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Short-term dust and vehicle emissions would occur 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 area 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: Clark County would notify adjacent landowners of the project via mailings.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette April 15, 2022
W. Walker Stinnette, ECT-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC