

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City-Stub-C Transmission Line Property Sale and Walker Road Improvement

Project Manager: Jim Clark, TERR-CHEMAWA

Location: Washington County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline right-of-ways; B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Washington County to pave an approximately 48-square-foot section of its Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City-Stub-C transmission line right-of-way property for the expansion of Walker Road in Washington County, Oregon. After completion of the work, BPA would transfer partial ownership of this section of property to Washington County. The site is located between structures 9/2 and 9/3 on Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line and structures 10/2 and 10/3 on Oregon City-Stub-C transmission line.

Specifically, Washington County contractors would widen Walker Road to five lanes, two travel lanes in each direction and a center turn lane, by installing new curb, new gutter, a new 18-inch stormwater pipe, and approximately 48-square-feet of new asphalt pavement on the north side of the road extending to the existing sidewalk. The width of the existing roadway would be expanded by approximately 20 feet to a total width of 100 feet. The expansion of Walker Road would take place in an area previously disturbed by construction of the roadway. Following construction, BPA would transfer partial ownership of the newly paved section of property to Washington County, retaining easement rights for transmission lines and associated 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/ Ronald "RJ" Theofield

Ronald "RJ" Theofield
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange September 28, 2020

Katey C. Grange 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: Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City-Stub-C Transmission Line Property Sale and Walker Road Improvement

Project Site Description

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned property on Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line between structures 9/2 and 9/3 and structures 10/2 and 10/3 on Oregon City-Stub-C transmission line in Washington County, Oregon. It is located in Township 1 South, Range 1 West, and Section 05. The site abuts the north side of Walker Road and is currently comprised of a mix of native and non-native herbaceous species and gravel. Surrounding land uses consist of medium-density residential and commercial uses, including Nike Headquarters to the south. There are no wetlands or surface waters within the project site; however, there is a wetland located within 1000 feet of the site to the east. The wetland is physically separated from the site by a driveway to an apartment building complex.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work is located in an existing, heavily disturbed road prism. In addition, cultural surveys of the site were completed for two separate projects in 2014 and determined that no cultural resources were present and was not a high-probability area for resources. Therefore, a determination of no potential to affect historic properties was made by the BPA Archaeologist on Sept 22, 2020.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Soil disturbance would occur during installation of the new curb, gutter, stormwater piping, and asphalt pavement, and temporary disturbance would occur adjacent to the new roadway. Washington County and its contractors would implement best management practices (BMP) to address erosion and prevent sediment runoff.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing vegetation would be removed for the new roadway. No special-status species are present or known to occur at the project site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in previously disturbed areas. No special-status species are present or known to occur at the project site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies are present within half mile of project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area, according to a wetland delineation survey conducted by Washington County in 2014. The survey identified a wetland that is approximately 400 feet to the east of the project site, but the site and wetland are separated by an existing driveway for an apartment complex to the north.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 5-6 feet for the installation of the stormwater pipe and would not intersect groundwater.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change to land use at the project site. No specially-designated areas are in the project vicinity.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The widened Walker Road would look similar to the existing road with the addition of curb and gutter.

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 long-term impacts are anticipated.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No human health or safety impacts are anticipated.

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: No notification – All work on BPA fee-owned property.

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

Signed: /s/ Ronald "RJ" Theofield September 28, 2020
Ronald "RJ" Theofield, ECT-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University