

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Shultz-Raver No. 3 Structures 49/4 and 59/4 Access Road Improvement Project

**PP&A No.:** 4246

**Project Manager:** Donna Martin, TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** King County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to improve and repair approximately one mile of access roads along the Schultz-Raver No. 3 transmission line to access transmission structures 49/4 and 59/4. Proposed road work would include: blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on new and existing road prisms, replacing one cross drain-culvert, and constructing four drain dips. General equipment used for this type of work includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, brush hogs, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>April 30, 2021</u>
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:** Shultz-Raver No. 3 Structures 49/4 and 59/4 Access Road Improvement Project

### Project Site Description

The proposed project is located in an existing transmission line corridor in central Washington. The general area consists predominantly of logged and second growth upland forest. No water resources occur within the project area. Project location and land ownership listed below.

Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership/Manager
20N, 9E, Section 11	King, WA	Green River Municipal Watershed
20N, 11E, Section 17	King, WA	Green River Municipal Watershed

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

#### 1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation:

The BPA contract archaeologist completed background research and an intensive field survey of the proposed project area and determined the project actions would result in No Historic Properties Affected. No previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the project area and no archaeological resources were identified during BPA's cultural resource survey. However, two eligible historic transmission lines were identified, Schultz-Raver No. 3 and No. 4. Although these resources were identified, the proposed project activities would not affect the standards under which they are considered eligible.

Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the Environmental Protection Specialist and the Cultural Resources Lead should be notified immediately. No additional review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required for this action at this time.

#### 2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal new disturbance is anticipated. Predominantly, ground-disturbing activities would occur on existing access roads. Best Management Practices would be used to implement site specific erosion and sediment control. Disturbed areas would be rocked or stabilized and seeded.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal new disturbance to plants is anticipated. There are no Federal/state special-status plant species or habitats present in the project area. Following construction, some minimal areas of soil disturbance may remain, which would be stabilized and seeded.

The project would occur in the Green River Municipal Watershed. BPA would comply with the *Requirements for Protection of Water Supply in the Green River Watershed*.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have temporary noise and disturbance impacts to local wildlife species related to elevated equipment noise and human presence. No impacts to Federal/state special-status wildlife species or habitats are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

#### **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 proposed project. Access road improvements would not impact these resources.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands within the vicinity of the proposed project. Access road improvements would not impact wetlands.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to groundwater or aquifers are anticipated as the ground disturbance would not be deep enough to penetrate groundwater.

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

Potential for Significance: No

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

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have minimal impacts to visual quality and the results would remain consistent with the existing surroundings of the transmission line corridor and associated access roads.

#### **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, environmental, and cultural resources specialists have coordinated the proposed project activities with Tacoma Public Utilities for work within the Green River Municipal Watershed.

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 April 30, 2021  
Laura Roberts, ECT-4 Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist