

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Portland General Electric's Guy Wire Replacement Project on BPA's Keeler-Allston No. 1 Transmission Line (LURR20210140)

Project Manager: Charlene Belt – TERR-ROSS MHQA

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 Portland General Electric (PGE) to install a replacement guy wire and anchor system in BPA's Keeler-Allston No. 1 transmission line right-of-way. The guy wire replacement is required because the existing guy wire rubs on the distribution crossarm. PGE would install the new guy wire and anchor system near their structure #86, which is located about 190 feet southeast of BPA's structure 3/3 on the Keeler-Allston No. 1 transmission line. The anchor would be installed up to 10 feet below ground level, and the guy wires would connect to the anchor and PGE's structure #86. A boom digger and a bucket truck would be used to install the guy wire and anchor system. Once the replacement guy wire system is installed, the old guy wires would be disconnected from the old anchor and PGE's structure #86.

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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel September 20, 2021

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.

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Project Site Description

The project site is located about 1 mile north of Highway 26 and about 5 miles northeast of Hillsboro, Oregon. The local area surrounding the project site is primarily comprised of flat land that is in row-crop agricultural production, with periodic farms and rural residences nearby. This agricultural landscape setting is common to the north and west of the project site. The area to the south, closer to the highway, is primarily comprised of large warehouse buildings, and urban residences and subdivisions closer to Hillsboro-metro area.

The site is located within the BPA Keeler-Allston No. 1 transmission line right-of-way near structure 3/3. PGE's wood pole distribution transmission line is located about 10-15 feet north of, and runs parallel to, NW Union Road. PGE's structure #86 is situated in a 50 foot by 60 foot by 100 foot triangular-shaped uncultivated area, between two agricultural fields and NW Union Road. No wetlands or water bodies are located within the project area; however, an intermittent drainage feature is located about 650 feet north of the project site in the agricultural field, and a pond with a freshwater emergent wetland surrounding it is located about 2,000 feet north of the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: On June 16, 2021, the BPA archaeologist initiated Section 106 consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

On August 9, 2021, the BPA archaeologist determined that No Historic Properties would be affected as a result of the proposed undertaking. No response was received from SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, or the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. On September 1, 2021, BPA received concurrence from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, with a recommendation that an Inadvertent Discovery Protocol (IDP) be implemented.

The construction crews shall carry with them onsite a copy of BPA's IDP, and shall review the procedure prior to conducting work. Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the BPA archaeologist identified in the IDP shall be notified immediately.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Excess soil from ground disturbance activities would be spread around the site locally. Standard construction erosion and sedimentation control plan best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any state-listed, special-status, or federally-listed plant species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on state-listed, special-status, or federally-listed ESA plant species. Project activities would be limited to the areas in the right-of-way corridor already affected by BPA's vegetation management program activities.

Notes:

- Vegetation that could be disturbed by project activities include native and non-native grasses and weedy species, and grass seed agricultural production fields.
- Areas where vegetation is disturbed by project activities would be replanted with a seed mix appropriate for the region comprised of native species, and that is locally sourced, with the exception of the agricultural production fields.
- No special-status plant species observations have been recorded within a 3-mile radius of the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any state-listed, special-status, or federally-listed wildlife species under the ESA in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on any state-listed, special-status, or federally-listed ESA wildlife species.

Notes:

- Generalist wildlife species that are habituated to road-side traffic and activity associated with rural agricultural right-of-way corridor habitats would temporarily relocate to other areas while project activities are underway, and are expected to return shortly after work is completed.
- No special-status wildlife species observations have been recorded within a 3-mile radius of the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish present within the project area; therefore, no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be impacted within the project area. BMPs would be implemented to ensure excavated soils would not impact aquatic resources located beyond the project area.

Notes:

- The nearest water body feature is an east-west running drainage feature within the agricultural field about 650 feet to the north of the project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: There are no wetlands within the project area; therefore, no wetlands would be impacted within the project area. BMPs would be implemented to ensure excavated soils would not impact aquatic resources located beyond the project area.

Notes:

- The nearest wetland is a freshwater emergent wetland located about 2,000 feet north of the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not impact groundwater resources or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No specially-designated areas are located within the project area; agricultural production activities would still be able to be performed in the fields adjacent to the project area; no land use changes are proposed; nor would the proposed project activities change the current land use at this site.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not impact the visual quality of the right-of-way because the installation of an in-kind replacement guy wire system would look similar to existing conditions. Therefore, no changes to the visual quality of the area are anticipated.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have a small impact on air quality because project activities, that would last a few hours, would generate a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust during the guy wire system work. Operation and maintenance of the guy wire would not impact air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary noise would increase in the local area during project activities. The guy wire system would not produce any operational noise once installed at the site.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Workers performing the project activities would wear personal protective equipment. If bucket trucks and other equipment need to be staged on NW Union Road during

construction work, then PGE would use traffic control flaggers and equipment (i.e., traffic cones and signage) to safely direct traffic around the construction site.

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: Portland General Electric would be responsible for landowner notification and coordination prior to conducting work onsite.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill, ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources LLC

September 20, 2021

Date