

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Access Road Improvements for Allston-Clatsop No. 1 to Structure 10/1

PP&A Project No.: 3160

Project Manager: Richard Ross– Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

Location: Located in Columbia County, Oregon; Ross District

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
Allston-Clatsop No. 1	10/1	7N	4W	17	Columbia, OR	Private

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance along BPA Road ID: 010-010 from Erickson Rd. to Structure 10/1 on the Allston-Clatsop No. 1 Transmission Line. Access road work will include replacing the existing gate with a new 16 foot Powder River gate, adding three drain dips, and performing minor blading, shaping, grading and adding rock to approx. 1,580 feet of existing serviceable access and structure spur roads. General equipment used for this type of project includes: graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines, which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be done in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code and BPA standards.

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, July 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/ Kevin George

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 22, 2015

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

Effects Determination for T&E Species

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 work would takes place in the existing BPA access road and rights-of-way corridors. The access roads and corridor are on moderate to steep hills on private property that is heavily forested. The gate replacement, blading, grading, adding rock, shaping, and installing drain dips, takes place within the existing access road prism and fills.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The proposed action is considered to be routine access road maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage stormwater run-off and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. ▪ Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. The contractor is to limit maintenance activities and equipment to the existing roadway, pullouts, and landings. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No additional material or equipment staging areas were identified for this project. Equipment and materials are to be restricted to the existing road prisms, road fills, and structure landings. In the event, duff materials are generated for this maintenance action, duff materials are to be collected, deposited, and stabilized in upland areas approved by PP&A. As applicable, schedule work to occur when dry. Where prudent, BMPs to control erosion and run-off would be implemented.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This project requires no tree or vegetation clearing. All construction equipment will be thoroughly cleaned prior to coming onto project sites to remove weed seeds, vegetative matter, soils, oil and greases. Upon review, it was determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project area for listed plant species.</p>		

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



Explanation: Upon review, it was determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project area for listed wildlife species.

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



Explanation: This project requires no in-water work, no tree or vegetation removal, nor any new roads or landings. Where determined to be necessary, erosion control BMPs will be used. Provide adequately stocked oil spill response kits in all construction equipment.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands will be impacted by this project. Where determined to be necessary, erosion control BMPs will be used.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is in an upland area. Spill prevention measures would be present on site during construction. Project would not result in any ground water withdrawals nor provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: Assure all equipment left in the access road and transmission line ROW have locking gas caps. Limit equipment and material staging to existing access road prisms, fills, pull-outs, and structure landings. Grade and restore any impacted areas outside of approved work areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project will not significantly alter or effect visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and insignificant. Utilize dust prevention measures to limit dust impacting adjacent residences.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise will be temporary and localized. Do not leave equipment idling or equipment unattended near residences.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: A Site Specific Safety Plan will be prepared for 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, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Landowners will be contacted by the contractor prior to construction.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George
Kevin George
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 22, 2015