

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Acquisition of Multiple Access Road Easements

Project Manager: Brian Mai – TERP-TPP-4

Location: Various Counties in Washington and Idaho

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.42 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform several property acquisitions in multiple locations across BPA's service area. The acquisitions would ensure permanent legal access to BPA facilities for operation and maintenance purposes. These acquisitions would perfect access rights and reflect current use of existing facilities.

New access road easements would generally be 20 feet wide. There are no planned improvements associated with these property transfers.

BPA Facility	Tracts/Roads	Owner	Length of Road	County, State	Scope
Columbia-Grand Coulee Access Road (AR) Mile (Mi) 31 & 46	C-GC-141-AR-1P1	Private	130	Douglas, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for operation & maintenance (O&M).
	C-GC-141-AR-1P2	Private	1040		
	C-GC-141-AR-1P3	Private	1310		
	C-GC-141-AR-1P4	Private	1300		
	C-GC-141-AR-1P5	Private	1300		
	C-GC-156-AR-1	Private	260		
	C-GC-156-AR-2	Private	200		
Columbia-Valhalla No. 2 AR Mi 2	RR-C-20-AR-3	Private	1180	Chelan, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
Ellensburg-Moxee AR Mi 6	Y-E-60-AR-1P1	Private	1780	Kittitas, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
	Y-E-60-AR-1P2	Private	3600		
	Y-E-60-AR-1P3	Private	4160		
	Y-E-60-AR-2	Private	4940		
	Y-E-60-AR-3	Private	1070		
	Y-E-60-AR-4	Private	760		
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph AR Mi 3	GC-OK-3-AR	Private	70	Douglas, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
	GC-OK-3-AR-3P2	Bureau of Reclamation	50		
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2 Renewal & AR	GC-OK-9-AR	Private	850	Douglas, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
	GC-OK-36-AR-4P1	Private	425		
	GC-OK-36-AR-4P2	Private	500		
	GC-OK-39-AR-8	Private	130		
Hatwai-Dworshak AR Mi 8	H-D-8-AR-4	Private	4130	Nez Perce, ID	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
Sacheen-Albeni Falls AR Mi	AAB-7-AR-3	Private	4400	Pend Oreille, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.

Sacheen-Albeni Falls AR Mi 10,10-11,14	AAB-10-AR-6P1	Private	720	Bonner, ID	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
	AAB-10-AR-6P2	Private	1620		
	AAB-10-AR-6P3	Private	350		
	AAB-10-AR-6P4	Private	400		
	AAB-11-AR-1	Private	2020		
	AAB-14-AR-4P1	Private	3410		
	N-S-2-AR-10P2	Private	200		
	AAB-14-AR-4P2	Private	1760		
Schultz-Raver AR Mi 39-40	AAE-136-AR-1	Private	560	Kittitas, WA	Acquire easement rights over existing roads for O&M.
	AAE-137-AR-3	Private	10		
	R-MV-79-AR-4 -	Wenatchee National Forest	560		

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/ Claire McClory
 Claire McClory
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
 Katherine S. Pierce
 NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 21, 2015

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:

Project Site Description

Project sites are located in various states throughout BPA's service territory.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u>		

No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.

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



Explanation:

BPA would acquire easement rights on private and public land. Land use would remain unchanged.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – easement acquisitions only.

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: Not applicable.

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

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory KEC-4

Date: April 21, 2015