

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Washington County SW 124th Avenue Extension project and Water Pipeline Installation

**LURR Nos:** 20130177 and 20140304

**Project Manager:** James Clark - TERR-3

**Location:** Washington County, OR

**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) is proposing to transfer fee-owned land along the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line, after which BPA would retain an easement. In addition BPA is proposing to allow Washington County to extend SW 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to allow Tualatin Valley Water District to install a water pipeline on BPA fee-owned rights-of-way (ROW) and on BPA ROW. The new SW 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue would be constructed from its intersection with SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road to a new intersection with SW Tonquin Road, continue to the east as the new SW Basalt Creek Road, and connect with SW Grahams Ferry Road. The road would be constructed as two 12-foot travel lanes and two 7-foot paved shoulders with anticipated expansion to five lanes in the future. The proposed activities would cross five sites on BPA's Pearl-Keeler No. 1 and Pearl-Sherwood Nos. 1 and 2 ROW as well as on BPA's Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 fee-owned ROW. The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow as well as provide access to planned commercial and industrial development. The 72-inch water pipeline is associated with the Willamette Water Supply Program and would be installed below the roadbed during road construction. No additional impacts would occur from the pipeline installation.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Adecco Engineering & Technical

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 27, 2015

Attachment: 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 proposed projects would cross BPA fee-owned right-of-way and BPA easement at five sites in Washington County, Oregon. The vicinity is mostly commercial and industrial, with some residential development, and is slated for future development by Washington County. The proposed road and associated pipeline would impact approximately six acres of land that has been previously disturbed. One site has a private, unpaved access road to a rock quarry through it. Three of the five sites have paved roads on them, SW Tonquin Road and SW Grahams Ferry Road. The site slated to become Basalt Creek Road is vegetated with grasses and appears to be maintained by an adjacent landowner.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Archaeological surveys were conducted on behalf of Washington County by AINW for their area of potential effect, which included BPA easements and BPA fee-owned ROW. BPA archaeologist reviewed their surveys and determined no adverse effect to historic properties. Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz were consulted; no responses were received. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were also consulted and issues were resolved.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.</li><li>• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.</li><li>• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</li></ul>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would permanently impact approximately 6 acres of BPA fee-owned land and BPA easement, most of which has already been impacted for road construction.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.</p>		

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)



Explanation: A No Effect Memorandum for Threatened and Endangered Species under USFWS Jurisdiction was completed for the entire project on behalf of Washington County by David Evans and Associates Inc. in October 2014. No federally listed or state special status plant species were documented or observed in the entire project area.

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



Explanation: A No Effect Memorandum for Threatened and Endangered Species under USFWS Jurisdiction was completed for the entire project on behalf of Washington County by David Evans and Associates Inc. in October 2014. No federally listed or state special status plant species were documented or observed in the entire project area.

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



Explanation: No water bodies or floodplains are present. A Biological Assessment to address the effect of the project on fish species under jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service was completed on behalf of Washington County by David Evans and Associates Inc. in November 2014. None of the areas of potential concern were located on BPA fee-owned rights-of-way or BPA easement.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Wetlands were delineated for the entire project. Those identified on BPA fee-owned rights-of-way and BPA easement would not be impacted.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed.

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



Explanation: Most of the project area has been previously disturbed for roads in the area. There are no specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The new road would be consistent with existing uses in the area, including commercial and industrial development. The pipeline would not be visible.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary, intermittent noise anticipated during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: A Level 1 Hazardous Materials Assessment was conducted by GeoDesign Projects. The assessment, dated November 20, 2014, found no hazardous material storage or use on existing BPA ROW. Proposed activities will have no effect on human health and safety.

### **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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Not applicable.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Date: : July 27, 2015