

# memorandum

DATE: December 31, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Julie Goodrich  
Project Manager – TERR-3

**Proposed Action:** Tualatin Valley Water District Waterline Land Use Review Request

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

**Location:** Washington County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to grant a Land Use Review Request (LURR) submitted by Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) to construct a portion of their proposed waterline on existing BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) within BPA's Keeler-Oregon City No.2 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line corridor in the City of Beaverton, Oregon. TVWD would construct an approximately 1.2 mile long, 24-inch diameter pipeline to connect the existing 42-inch Springville Reservoir water supply pipeline to the existing Thompson Reservoir Pump Station. Construction of the waterline would contribute to the completion of a series of improvements planned by TVWD to maintain the reliability and redundancy of the water supply to its West Hills service area.

In order to complete the project, BPA would grant TVWD access to an approximate 1,000 square foot area between structures 6/10 and 6/11 of BPA's Keeler-Oregon City No.2 115-kV transmission line corridor. Within this area, TVWD would excavate a trench approximately 15 feet deep to access and tap the existing 42-inch water pipeline. TVWD would then excavate a jack and bore pit approximately 15 feet deep adjacent to the trench, and use a boring machine to install approximately 160 linear feet of 24-inch water pipeline to connect with existing 24-inch water pipeline beneath NW Evergreen Street. The remaining water pipeline would be installed within the trench and connected to the existing 42-inch water pipeline. The jack and bore pit and the trench would subsequently be backfilled, graded, and revegetated with native shrubs.

The proposed project would temporarily disturb an area of approximately 1,000 square feet for waterline installation and associated construction activities. Disturbance would result from the movement of construction vehicles and heavy equipment, organics/soil/debris removal, and the addition and compaction of fill materials. The project site would be accessed through an existing gravel entrance from NW Kaiser Road at the southeastern corner of the site.

**Resource Review:** BPA reviewed potential impacts to vegetation, wetlands and floodplains, water, federally listed species and critical habitat, and cultural resources by the proposed project.

*Existing Environment.* The project site is located in Washington County, OR, on a portion of existing BPA fee-owned ROW within BPA's Keeler-Oregon City No.2 115-kV transmission line corridor, which lies north of NW Kaiser Road approximately 250 feet west of the intersection of NW Kaiser Road and NW Banff Drive. In addition to BPA's transmission lines, an existing waterline and natural gas pipeline easement cross the project site. Vegetated areas of the project site are previously disturbed with evidence of fill and grading. The area surrounding the project site is a developed suburban neighborhood with primarily residential uses. A perennial stream, Bronson Creek, lies northwest of the project site.

*Vegetation.* The project would remove existing vegetation comprised of non-native species including Himalayan blackberry, reed canary grass, and several species of thistle. Disturbed areas would be replanted with combination of native species including dwarf grasses, snowberry, red osier dogwood, and Pacific ninebark. No sensitive or federally-listed plant species would be affected.

*Water, Wetlands, and Floodplains.* HDR Engineering, Inc. delineated two wetlands which lie immediately north and east of the project site. A 100-year floodplain is located approximately 150 feet northwest of the project site, and Bronson Creek also lies to the northwest, flowing within 460 feet at its nearest point. There are no perennial or intermittent streams located within the project site. No construction activities would take place within delineated wetlands, and best management practices (BMPs) would be utilized to prevent erosion and runoff from construction activities from entering the wetlands and other water resources.

*Federally Listed Wildlife Species and Critical Habitat.* The proposed project would have no effect on these species or their critical habitat located in Washington County because suitable habitat does not exist within the project area.

*Cultural Resources.* On November 16, 2012, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Based on a site visit and previous impacts to the area, BPA determined the proposed project would have no effect on cultural resources or historic properties. In a letter dated November 27, 2012, the Oregon SHPO stated that there is no record of previous cultural surveys conducted in the area, considered to have a high probability for encountering archaeological sites, and requested the presence of a qualified archaeological monitor during construction activities, which will be done, as stated in the provisions (attached).

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively

significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Zachary R. Gustafson  
Zachary R. Gustafson  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: December 31, 2012

Attachments:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions  
Provisions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Tualatin Valley Water District Waterline Land Use Review Request

Work Order #: 184006 Task 01

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Ensure that a qualified archaeological monitor, as required by Oregon SHPO, is present during all ground-disturbing construction activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that are protective of wetlands and water resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Zachary Gustafson

Date: December 31, 2012

## **Provisions**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

### **Natural Resources**

- Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that are protective of wetlands and water resources.
- Reseed disturbed areas with regionally appropriate native trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- Collect, remove, and legally dispose of any construction waste, or fill material unsuitable for grading and backfilling off-site in accordance with the policies and procedures prescribed by BPA's Pollution Prevention & Abatement group and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Ensure that a qualified archaeological monitor, as required by Oregon SHPO, is present during all ground-disturbing construction activities.

In the event any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- 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.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.