

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Access Road Acquisition, Hood River-The Dalles No. 1 115-kV Transmission Line

Project No.: TER ID 13-0239

Project Manager: Danya Arguedas – TERR-3

Location: Wasco County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to acquire a non-exclusive perpetual easement on approximately 300 feet of access road 015-03-2-N1. This road is used to access structure 15/3 on the Hood River-The Dalles No. 1 115-kV transmission line.

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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A Wittpenn

Environmental Protection Specialist

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 5, 2017

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

Access road 015-03-2-N1 is used to access structure 15/3 on the Hood River-The Dalles No. 1 115-kV transmission line in Wasco County, Oregon. Structure 15/3 is about 2 miles west of The Dalles Substation in The Dalles, Oregon.

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 ground disturbance would occur and the acquisition of a road easement does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur and no plants would be affected.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur and no wildlife or habitats would be affected.		
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 ground disturbance would occur and no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur and wetlands would not be affected.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur and no groundwater, nor aquifers, would be affected.

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



Explanation: Acquisition of a road easement would not change its use as a road or affect specially-designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur and there would be no change in visual quality in the area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur and there would be no impact to air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise would not be generated by this acquisition.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Acquisition of a road easement would not have an effect on human health and safety and no asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials would be disturbed.

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: The landowner would be contacted by Realty as part of the acquisition process.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn
Nancy A Wittpenn ECT-4

Date: September 5, 2017