

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Echo Lake Substation Access Road Repair

Project No.: LURR 20170380

Project Manager: Charlene Belt

Location: King County, WA

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 allow Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve a section of existing paved road across BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) at the Echo Lake Substation in King County, Washington. DNR needs to improve the access road because sections are failing and large trucks can no longer use the road. DNR would use an excavator to remove bad sections of asphalt and then would resurface the road. The length of road to be resurfaced across BPA ROW would be 380 feet.

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

Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 8, 2018

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.

Proposed Action: Echo Lake Substation Access Road Repair

Project Site Description

The project is located outside of BPA’s Echo Lake Substation in King County, Washington. The project area is the existing asphalt access road (unnamed) that runs through BPA’s fee-owned right-of-way in a rural, forested area.

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> The proposed activities have no potential to affect historic or cultural resources. No historic properties are known to occur on or near the proposed site.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would have no new impact to soils; 380 feet of existing access road would be resurfaced.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minor impacts to roadside vegetation may occur. No federal or state special-status species are known to occur at the site.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Echo Lake Substation ROW is within a northern spotted owl (NSO) circle. The NSO circle is a single owl site, thus no restrictions are required per Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Plan. No additional special-status species are known to be present in the project area.		
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 water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed.

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

Explanation: No change to land use is anticipated. The area has no special designation other than the NSO circle described above in the Wildlife section.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The resurfaced road would resemble the existing road.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions are anticipated during construction activities.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: A temporary increase in noise would occur during road resurfacing.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impacts to human health and safety are anticipated.

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: No notification needed. The proposed work would take place on BPA fee-owned property and adjacent landowners would not be impacted.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: March 8, 2018