

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Pride Disposal Asphalt Road and Truck Scale Installation on Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 Right-of-Way

Project No.: LURR-20210172

Project Manager: Darin L. Smith, TERR-CHEMAWA

Location: Washington County, Oregon

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) proposes to allow Pride Disposal to install a new asphalt road and truck scale on BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) south of structure 19/11 on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line in Sherwood, Washington County, Oregon (Township 2 South, Range 1 West, Section 28).

Pride Disposal would install a 100-foot-long and 12-foot-wide asphalt road with an in-ground truck scale. Installation of the road and truck scale would require grading and excavating up to approximately four feet deep to install six footings for the piers on which the scale would be mounted. Graded and excavated soils would be used for backfill and/or disposed of off-site in accordance with all applicable local, state, and Federal regulations. It is expected that the proposed action would be completed within approximately three months and would require the use of a dump truck, excavator, flatbed trailer, ready mix truck, and asphalt paving equipment. If materials or equipment staging were to be required on BPA property, then it would be located on existing paved and/or graveled surfaces.

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, Jul. 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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol P. Leiter

Carol P. Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange January 5, 2022

Katey C. Grange Date

NEPA Compliance Officer

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

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned ROW south of structure 19/11 on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line in Sherwood, Washington County, Oregon (Township 2 South, Range 1 West, Section 28). The asphalt road and truck scale would be installed across the width of the ROW in an area that has been previously disturbed and consists of a graveled parking and equipment storage area. Little to no vegetation is present with the exception of some regularly mowed grasses and weeds along the margins of the gravel. The underlying Quatama soil series is not hydric, and no wetlands or water bodies are present within or near the project site. Outside of the project site, the surrounding area is urbanized with a mix of industrial and commercial properties.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Three previous archaeological surveys were conducted within the project area, and no archaeological resources were identified. The Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line has been determined minimally eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, the proposed undertaking would not alter the integrity or eligibility of the transmission line. Therefore, on November 17, 2021, BPA simultaneously determined that the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties (BPA CR Project No.: OR 2021 098) and initiated National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation with the following parties:

- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Oregon Heritage: State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

No comments were received from the consulting parties.

Notes:

- Implement inadvertent discovery protocols in the unlikely event that cultural material is encountered during the implementation of this project. BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All soil disturbance would occur within a previously-disturbed graveled parking and equipment storage area. Standard construction best management practices would prevent erosion and sedimentation. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact geology and soils.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Little to no vegetation is present within the project site. However, the proposed action could remove, crush, or cover some regularly mowed, low-growing grasses and weeds along the margins of the existing graveled area. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary wildlife disturbance could occur from construction noise. However, wildlife species that could be present in the area would likely be habituated to this level of disturbance given surrounding land uses. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status wildlife species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish-bearing streams are present within or near the project site. Standard construction best management practices would prevent indirect impacts to off-site water bodies, floodplains, and fish. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on fish species or habitats.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present within or near the project site. Standard construction best management practices would prevent indirect impacts to off-site wetlands. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not generate or use hazardous materials that would contaminate groundwater or aquifers. No new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would convert a graveled parking and equipment storage area to an asphalt road with an in-ground truck scale. There would be no impact to adjacent land uses, and the project site is not located in a specially-designated area

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, the presence of construction equipment and general construction activities, including grading and excavation and minor vegetation disturbance, would cause temporary visual impacts. The proposed action would result in a permanent change in the appearance of the ROW from resurfacing the existing gravel with asphalt and installing a truck scale. However, these changes would be minor and consistent with the existing visual quality of the area. The project site is not located in a visually sensitive area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would cause a minor and temporary increase in dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. There would be no long-term change in air quality following completion of the proposed action.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction activities could temporarily and intermittently produce noise at levels greater than current ambient conditions. Noise impacts would only occur during daylight hours (approximately 7 AM to 7 PM), and no noise-sensitive properties are located near the project site. There would be no long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Standard construction best management practices would minimize risk to human health and safety. Therefore, the proposed action would not be expected to impact 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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The proposed action would occur on BPA fee-owned property. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette January 5, 2022
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC