

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Jacobson Road Fiber Installation

**Project No.:** LURR20200008

**Project Manager:** Charlene Belt – 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:** BPA proposes to allow WAVE Broadband to install conduit for fiber optic cable across the BPA fee-owned Keeler-Alston transmission line right-of-way in Washington County, Oregon. Approximately 500 feet of fiber conduit would be placed along the south edge of Jacobson Road where it crosses BPA's right-of-way between structures 2/6 and 2/7. The conduit would be installed about 48 inches below ground in fill material imported during road construction. No other ground disturbance would occur.

**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/ Tish Eaton

Tish Eaton

Environmental Protection Specialist

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 11, 2019

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 is located in Hillsboro, Oregon, in an industrial area of Washington County. Jacobson Road, a paved road, crosses perpendicular to the transmission line right-of-way in flat terrain. Land use within the right-of-way is agricultural; adjacent land use is a mixture of agriculture and industrial with a small tract of homes to the west of the right-of-way. Vegetation on the right-of-way is an agricultural species (likely grass hay or similar).

## 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the fiber conduit installation would be within previously disturbed imported fill material, a determination of no potential to effect was made by the BPA Archaeologist on November 13, 2019.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A trench would be excavated in the fill material along the edge of the road. Excavated material would be used to backfill the trench once the conduit is installed. Soil is not expected to move offsite.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federally-listed plant species are known to be present within the project area. Native vegetation is not likely to be impacted because the road edge is sparsely vegetated with non-native species, including weeds.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federally-listed wildlife species are known to be present within the project area. While noise would occur from conduit installation, wildlife that may use the project area are likely habituated to road use and noise; impacts would be minor and short term.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not contain any water bodies, floodplains, or fish.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands in the project area.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Excavation in the road fill (approximately 48 inches deep) would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be no change to land use in the project area and there are no specially-designated areas in the vicinity.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality in the project area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would be generated during conduit installation but these would be temporary and no long-term impacts to air quality would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise generated would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: No landowner notification or coordination would be necessary since the work would take place on BPA land.

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

Signed: /s/ Tish Eaton  
Tish Eaton, ECT-4

Date: December 11, 2019