

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Allston-Driscoll No. 2 Access Road Improvement Project

**PP&A No.:** 4011

**Project Manager:** Donna Martin – TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** Columbia and Clatsop counties, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to improve access roads along the Allston-Driscoll No. 2 Transmission Line. The proposed project would occur within Columbia and Clatsop counties, Oregon. The project would be completed in two phases. Phase I, scheduled for construction in fall 2019, would construct or repair approximately 5.36 miles of access roads between structures 3/3-5/6, 8/2-10/4, and 20/1-20/3, and install necessary drainage features including 6 culverts. Phase II, scheduled for construction in 2020, would construct or repair approximately 2.26 miles of access roads between structures 20/5 to 22/6, and install necessary drainage features including 5 culverts. Proposed road work would include; blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on new and existing road prisms. General equipment used for this type of road work includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, brush hogs, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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/ Laura Roberts*  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

Concur:

*/s/ Katey Grange*  
Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: September 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.

**Proposed Action:** Allston-Driscoll No. 2 Access Road Improvement Project

## Project Site Description

The project is located in western Oregon and consists of predominantly upland forest and agricultural lands.

	Line Corridor	Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership
Phase I	Allston – Driscoll No. 2	7N, 3W, Section 14, 15, 16	Columbia , OR	Private
		7N, 4W, Section 14, 15, DC43	Columbia , OR	Private
		7N, 6W, Section 1	Columbia , OR	Oregon State Lands, Private
Phase II	Allston – Driscoll No. 2	8N, 6W Section 27,24,25	Clatsop, OR	Oregon State Lands, Private

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA conducted cultural resource field surveys for the proposed project. No cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. BPA sent letters of determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project to Oregon SHPO and the Grand Ronde Tribe on July 9, 2019. BPA received one comment/response consisting of Oregon SHPO concurrence on August 6, 2019.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> During construction, all appropriate BMPs would be used to implement site-specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.</p>		
<b>3. Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not impact any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area. Only necessary vegetation would be removed. Any disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded with a geographic and climate-appropriate seed mix</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or ESA-listed species occur in the project area. The proposed project may cause temporary disturbance to local wildlife from associated construction activities and noise.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: The proposed project area is not near any fish-bearing waterbodies. Some work would occur in dry drainages that exhibit only ephemeral flow. Typical erosion control BMPs would be implemented and no riparian habitat would be affected.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands occur within the proposed project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project would have minimal impacts to visual quality and the results would remain consistent with the existing surroundings of the transmission line corridor and associated access roads.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or 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, 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: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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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/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts, EPI-4  
Biological Scientist

Date: September 11, 2019