

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Residential Use on Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City Stub Right-of-Way

Project No.: LURR 20230295

Project Manager: Darin 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: BPA proposes to allow an applicant who is a private landowner to use the adjacent BPA fee-owned ROW for residential uses such as gardening and recreation between structures 8/11 and 9/1 on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and structures 9/11 and 10/1 on the Oregon City Stub transmission lines in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon.

The applicant would conduct minor ground disturbance activities consistent with planting a garden and also maintaining an existing fence within the ROW. The applicant would not plant trees or construct new structures in the ROW.

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.

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Sarah T. Biegel
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 right-of-way (ROW) on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and Oregon City Stub transmission lines in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon (Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Section 5). The project site consists of maintained grasses and weeds. The surrounding area is a highly developed residential area. There are no wetlands or other water bodies in the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with a determination of no historic properties affected on June 6, 2024 (BPA CR Project No.: OR 2023 165). Consulting parties included the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). No comments were received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities would include activities associated with gardening. Minor soils disturbance would occur consistent with planting of vegetables. Soils would stabilize once the garden became established.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Vegetation consists of regularly maintained weeds and grasses. There are no documented occurrences of any state special-status plant species or plant species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) near the project site. Therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on special-status plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any state special-status wildlife species or wildlife species protected under the Federal ESA near the project site, and no such species are expected to occur at the project site. The project would not result in any adverse modification to suitable protected species habitat. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on protected wildlife species.

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

Potential for Significance:

Explanation: The project site does not contain any water bodies, floodplains, or surface connectivity to fish-bearing streams. Therefore, the project would not impact water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any excavation associated with gardening activities is unlikely to reach depths to intersect 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: All of the intended uses by the applicant would be consistent with the existing land uses. The project site is not located in a specially-designated area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The applicant is not proposing to add any structures that would change the visual quality of the area. All of the allowed uses intended by the applicant are consistent with uses of adjacent residential areas.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust may occur during routine gardening activities; however, there would be no significant change to air quality during or after these activities.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Activities associated with the use of the ROW would be typical of routine residential activities and would not result in a significant change from the ambient noise of the neighborhood.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed uses 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: All proposed activities would occur on BPA fee-owned property. No other 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:

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist