

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: NW Natural Gas Lines Crossing Keeler-Oregon City No. 2

Project No.: LURR-20230356

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow NW Natural (NWN) to remove and install gas pipeline on BPA fee-owned property along SW Day Road as it crosses through the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 transmission line right-of-way (ROW) between structures 22/6 and 22/7 in Wilsonville, Washington County, Oregon. This work is part of the City of Wilsonville's paving project on SW Day Road.

Removal of up to 140 feet of existing two-inch distribution main and six-inch high pressure gas main running east-west under SW Day Road would require excavating a single trench three feet wide and four feet deep.

Installation of approximately 140 feet of six-inch high pressure gas main running east-west along the fog line on the north side of SW Day Road would require excavating a trench that is two feet wide and five to six feet deep.

Installation also includes approximately 140 feet of four-inch poly gas main running east-west just north of the edge of pavement of SW Day Road. This gas main would be installed by horizontal direction drilling under the length of the BPA ROW and would not result in any ground disturbance.

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 on BPA fee-owned property and within the paved roadway prism of SW Day Road right-of-way in Wilsonville, Oregon (Township 03 South, Range 01 West, Section 2). Surrounding land uses consist of low-density residential properties. There are no wetlands or waters located within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with a determination of no historic properties affected on June 7, 2024 (BPA CR Project No.: OR 2024 003) with the stipulation that an archaeological monitor be present for ground-disturbing activities. Consulting parties included the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Concurrence was received from the SHPO on August 5, 2024 (SHPO Case No. 24-1099). No other comments were received.

Notes:

- NW Natural would need to provide a cultural resources monitor, in coordination with BPA's cultural lead, for any ground-disturbing construction activities on BPA fee-owned land.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Trenching for removal and installation of gas pipelines would be located within the paved roadway of SW Day Road and no deeper than five feet. NWN would be responsible for implementing standard construction best management practices (BMPs) to minimize soil erosion, sedimentation, and fugitive dust. The proposed action would not impact geology and only impact previously-disturbed soils under SW Day Road.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities would occur within the existing pavement of SW Day Road; therefore, the proposed action would have no effect on special-status plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal or state special-status species or habitats. Some wildlife may temporarily avoid the project area during construction. Construction noise levels would be similar to or slightly above the ambient noise levels from traffic on SW Day Road.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish, in or near the project area; therefore, the project would have no effect on these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project location is not in, or near, wetlands; therefore, the project would have no effect on wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not affect groundwater or aquifers. The maximum depth of disturbance would be five feet deep and is unlikely to come in contact with groundwater.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Land use at the project location would remain unchanged; therefore, there would be no effect on land use. There are no specially-designated areas at, or near, the project location.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no significant change to visual quality as both the removed and installed gas pipelines would be paved over after completion of the proposed action and SW Day Road would appear the same as previous conditions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant change to air quality during or after construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would generate minor and temporary equipment noise during construction, which could be audible from nearby residential properties. Noise impacts would be temporary and would only occur during daylight hours (approximately 7 AM to 7 PM). There would be no permanent change in ambient noise following completion of the proposed action.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no project impacts to 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. NWN would be responsible for landowner notification, involvement, or coordination if 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