

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: City of Vancouver Sanitary Sewer Installation West of Structures 34/3 on the North Bonneville-Ross Nos. 1 and 2 Transmission Lines

Project No.: LURR-20230290

Project Manager: Billie Woodman, TERR-ROSS MHQA

Location: Clark County, Washington

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 the City of Vancouver (City) to install a sanitary sewer line across a BPA fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington. The sewer line would be installed on the west side of North Devine Road and west of structures 34/3 on the North Bonneville-Ross Nos. 1 and 2 lines.

The City would install a 10-inch-diameter sanitary sewer line across the BPA ROW approximately 13 to 16 feet west of the sidewalk along North Devine Road at a depth of approximately 6 to 7 feet deep. Additionally, a sanitary sewer manhole is proposed to be installed on the sewer line in the north side of the BPA ROW. The project includes an approximately 18,000 square-foot area west of the proposed sewer line location that would be used for staging/storage of equipment and a dewatering discharge area. The staging area would be used for staging 8-inch and 10-inch PVC pipe, manhole sections, rock for backfill, wheel loader, bulldozer, and other construction equipment. The dewatering discharge area would be used to stage equipment for pumping, filtering and discharging water into an existing interceptor manhole along the northern boundary of the BPA ROW.

Equipment used in the discharge staging area would likely include a portable pump system, diesel generator, diesel storage tank, spill containment for the diesel tank, sediment suspension/filtration device, and piping from the trench to the interceptor manhole where water would be discharged. Following installation of the line, all disturbed areas would be restored to pre-existing elevations and revegetated with regionally appropriate native species.

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:

Katey C. Grange
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.

Proposed Action: City of Vancouver Sanitary Sewer Installation West of Structures 34/3 on the North Bonneville-Ross Nos. 1 and 2 Transmission Lines

Project Site Description

The project area is located in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington in Section 30, Township 2 North, Range 2 East. The area to the north and south of the transmission line corridor functions as open space and is designated as Sam Jackson Park, a city park owned by the City of Vancouver. Burnt Bridge Creek is located about 600 feet north of the northern boundary of the BPA transmission line corridor, in an area designated by the City as the Burnt Bridge Greenway. The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps potential wetlands north of the BPA ROW; however, there is no evidence of wetlands extending into the ROW based on the presence of upland plant species. A graveled parking area is located adjacent to a portion of North Devine Road. Other than the parking area, the corridor consists of maintained native and non-native grasses and shrubs.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: On September 20, 2024, BPA initiated consultation with a determination of no adverse effect, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the City of Vancouver Sanitary Sewer Connection project (BPA CR Project No.: WA 2024 279; DAHP Log No.: 2023-12-08405) with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.

During the cultural resource survey, BPA archaeologists identified an archaeological site in the APE. The BPA project team discussed the results of the survey with the City of Vancouver, and it was determined that the City could avoid the areas where artifacts were found. DAHP responded on September 23, 2024, concurring with the determination, provided the site was avoided, a professional monitor was present, and a Post-Review Discovery Plan was in place. No other responses were received.

Notes:

- The City of Vancouver would hire a professional archaeological monitor to be on site during ground disturbing activities and implement the Post Review Discovery Procedure in the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during implementation. Discontinue all ground-disturbing activity in the vicinity of the artifacts until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA's Cultural Lead and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action, including excavating and operating vehicles and heavy equipment, would cause temporary and permanent soil impacts in areas that have been previously disturbed. Minor soil compaction would likely occur due to vehicle and heavy equipment use and staging of materials and equipment. Excavated soils from the trench would be temporarily sidecast, then backfilled and returned to original contours. Temporarily disturbed soils would stabilize as vegetation is reestablished and would eventually return to pre-existing conditions following completion of the proposed action. Standard construction best management practices would prevent erosion and sedimentation from entering adjacent wetlands and water bodies. Therefore, the proposed action would have short-term, minor impact geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would remove, crush, or cover native and non-native grasses, forbs, and weeds from the installation of the sewer line and staging of materials and equipment. Disturbed areas would be reseeded with a native, regionally-appropriate seed mix and would eventually return to pre-existing conditions following completion of the proposed action. 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 disturbance of normal wildlife behavior and wildlife displacement could occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. However, there would be no permanent impacts to wildlife habitat, and temporarily disturbed or displaced wildlife would likely reoccupy the site following completion of the proposed action. 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 the project area. Burnt Bridge Creek is approximately 600 feet north of the project, which provides habitat for Columbia River coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and is also designated critical habitat for coho salmon. The project area is not located within the Burnt Bridge Creek floodplain. Standard construction best management practices would prevent indirect impacts Burnt Bridge Creek, its associated floodplain, or 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: There are no wetlands within the project area. 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: Excavation of the trench would be approximately 6 feet deep. Clark County GIS mapping indicates that groundwater is between 10 and 20 feet below the ground surface where the proposed sewer pipe would be installed; therefore, the trench is not anticipated to reach groundwater. 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.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not impact adjacent land uses and would return to pre-project land uses upon completion of installation and the project area 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 equipment and supplies located in the staging areas and dewatering area, would cause temporary visual impacts. However, once the project has been completed, the area would return to its previous condition. The project area 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 would result in a temporary increase in noise during daylight hours.

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 as analyzed in this CX would occur on BPA fee-owned property. For portions of the larger City of Vancouver project not occurring on BPA property, the City would be responsible for landowner notification, involvement, or coordination.

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