

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Devine Road Comcast Undergrounding Project

Project No.: LURR 20230024

Project Manager: Billie Woodman, TERR-ROSS MHQA

Location: Clark County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) proposes to allow Comcast to underground a portion of their telecommunications line that is currently mounted overhead on poles located along Devine Road south of E. 18th Street in Vancouver, Washington. Bonneville proposes to allow Comcast to remove its overhead line and install it underground at a depth of approximately 4 feet. A portion of this underground line would pass through the Bonneville fee-owned right-of-way and Comcast is seeking approval from Bonneville for this part of their project. The need for this line relocation is the result of the construction of a multi-use pathway. Directional boring would be used or open trenching if necessary for rocky soils. Comcast would be responsible for reseeding any disturbed grass area. The area for the line in the right-of-way is about 70 feet east of Structures 34/3 of the Bonneville North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and No. 2 Transmission Lines.

BPA authorizes the use of and manages its fee-owned lands pursuant to its authority under sections 2(e) and 2(f) of the Bonneville Project Act. 16 U.S.C. § 832a(e)-(f).

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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024), Bonneville 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, Bonneville finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.¹

Christopher Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

¹ BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to DOE's own regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

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 work for this LURR would occur on maintained Bonneville right-of-way adjacent to a paved roadway. The project area consists of mostly grass that is maintained as low growing vegetation with an approximately 15-foot-wide multi-use pathway. The surrounding topography consists of relatively flat areas with neighboring parcels comprised of greenway areas and developed suburban homes and commercial sites. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. A freshwater shrub wetland was identified about 50 feet from the northwest side of the site. Burnt Bridge Creek is located about 600 feet north of the site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Bonneville archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some soil disturbance for installation of the underground line by the trenching or underground boring, but the disturbance area would be stabilized and appropriate BMPs would be used to control erosion as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would be occurring in the Bonneville right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. Disturbance areas would be revegetated upon completion. There are no listed or special-status species impacted.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would be in established Bonneville right-of-way next to paved road. The site is not identified to provide northern spotted owl habitat or nesting sites. Installation of the underground line expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed or special-status species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies are present at the site. Burnt Bridge Creek is located about 6,00 feet north of the project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A forested shrub wetland was identified on the other side of the paved road about 50 feet northwest of the project area. No other wetlands are within close proximity to the work area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The shallow digging for the project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited impact to the right-of-way by this LURR. Disturbed areas would be repaired or reseeded.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes associated with removal of the overhead cable to the project area or surrounding environment.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts expected.

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 parcel is on Bonneville fee-owned land. Bonneville Realty is in coordination with Comcast.

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

Signed:

Christopher Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist