

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: East Park Church Disc Golf Course

Project No.: 20250174

Project Manager: Billie Woodman, TERR-ROSS MHQA

Location: Clark County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow East Park Church to construct two disc-golf target baskets on BPA's North Bonneville-Ross transmission line right-of-way. The approximate locations of the baskets would be 300 feet east of tower 29/4 on line 2 and 150 feet east of tower 29/3 on line 1. The baskets would be made of galvanized and painted steel, each with a single support pole buried approximately 15 inches deep in the soil. The excavated hole would be set with quick set concrete to secure the pole in the ground. The approximate above-ground dimensions of the baskets would be 2 feet wide and 4 feet tall. Installation of the baskets would disturb less than 0.3 cubic feet of soil.

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 1021.102 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; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.¹

Jillian Cosgrove
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 the interim final rule to revise DOE NEPA regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 and NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated June 30, 2025), to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

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 transmission ROW east of tower 29/4 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 transmission line in Clark County, Washington. The area is a field bordered by a private parking lot, two-lane roads, and a residential area. A few trees grow on the north side of the parcel. There are no water bodies, wetlands, or exposed soils in the project area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA initiated Section 106 consultation on June 16, 2025. Consulting parties included the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). SHPO concurred with BPA's delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) on the same day. No other responses were received.

On September 8, 2025, BPA conducted background research and intensive field survey and testing of the APE. There were no cultural findings from survey or shovel probes. On the same day, DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected with the stipulation for Inadvertent Discovery Protocol be in place. No other comments were received from consulting parties within the 30-day response period.

Notes:

- In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Installation of the disc golf baskets would involve minimal ground disturbance (less than 0.3 cubic feet of soil in total), which would have an insignificant impact on geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The vegetation in the project area consists of native and non-native grasses and forbs within the transmission line right-of-way. There are no federal or state special-status species or habitats present. The proposed action would involve no changes to vegetation management. Therefore, the proposed action would have an insignificant impact on plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area contains flowering plants that may be foraging habitat for pollinators. Monarch butterfly and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, which are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, may be present. However, the project involves no changes to vegetation management and these species would not be affected. There are no other federal or state special-status species or habitats known to be present. Non-sensitive wildlife that may be in the area are accustomed to human presence due the residential and suburban land uses in the area. Therefore, the proposed action would have an insignificant impact on wildlife.

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 within the project area.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The depth of disturbance (approximately 15 inches) would result in no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to land use. The project site is not located in a specially designated area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Equipment and work crews would be temporarily visible in the project area. Installation of the target baskets would create a low-profile visual change to the project area but would not have significant impacts.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no changes to air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would increase human recreational use in the right-of-way, which may result in additional human-caused noise during daylight hours. However, any increase in noise would be within baseline levels, which includes noise from traffic, nearby residences and a church.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: East Park Church would be responsible for ensuring all standard safety protocols are followed during installation and use of the disc golf targets. There would be adequate clearance between the baskets and transmission lines. Therefore, the proposed action would not 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 would occur on BPA fee-owned property. BPA and/or East Park Church would notify, involve, and coordinate with all other entities who retain easement rights within the project area, if required.

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

Signed:

Jillian Cosgrove
Environmental Protection Specialist