

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Pacificorp Underground 12.5 kV Line Installation at Roundup Substation Property

Project No.: LURR 20200106

Project Manager: Joe Cottrell – TERR-TRI-CITIES RMHQ; Deborah Rodgers - _TERR-TRI-CITIES RMHQ

Location: Umatilla, OR

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) would allow the installation of 12.5 kV underground distribution line by Pacificorp on the BPA's Roundup Substation property rights-of-way. The project would involve two, six-inch conduits, buried 48 inches below grade, crossing underneath the southwest corner of the substation property, and then running along the southern border of the property, just inside the property line for a total of about 1,000 feet. Conduit installation would temporarily disturb an area of about 3 feet along the distribution line although a 12-inch excavation bucket would be used to minimize the impacted area. The site is located in Township 2 North, Range 32 East, Section 24.

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.

/s/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>April 15, 2021</u>
Katey C. Grange	Date
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: Pacificorp Underground 12.5 kV Line Installation at Roundup Substation Property

Project Site Description

The installation of the underground 12.5 kV transmission line by Pacificorp would be on maintained BPA right-of-way just outside the fence line on the south side of the Roundup Substation. The project area consists of the Roundup Substation property and includes the dry and grassy area south of the Roundup Substation that is managed for low-growing vegetation. The surrounding topography consists of flat areas with some farmed land and rural homesites. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. A freshwater shrub wetland is located about 8,400 feet east of the project site. Patawa Creek is located approximately 4,000 feet to the north of the project area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the installation of the underground line would have no potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources, pending monitoring by a cultural resource professional during ground disturbing work. Part of the APE was previously surveyed in 2018 as part of the Cultural Resources Survey for *FY17-2018 Construction Pasco Wood Pole Replacement Project in Union, Morrow, and Umatilla County, Oregon*. The survey did not identify any cultural resources within the APE, but this survey only involved a surface inspection. BPA sent a consultation letter on November 3, 2020. On November 5, 2020, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Cultural Resources Protection Program responded and concurred with the area of potential effect for this project and has requested a cultural resources monitor be present for ground disturbing work associated with the project due to the proximity to historic sites with significance to the CTUIR. The CTUIR prefer the monitor to be a tribal representative, but will allow a BPA representative to conduct the work if necessary pending coordination. Consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer did not occur for this project because the APE is within the exterior boundaries of the CTUIR Reservation.

Notes:

- Pacificorp may proceed with the condition that an archaeological cultural resources monitor would be on site for ground disturbing work located within the BPA right-of-way easement.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some soil disturbance for the installation of the underground line. Some digging would be expected for the new underground line and installation at a depth of four feet.

Notes:

- Use of BMPs for dust and soil control would be expected to be used.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would be occurring in the BPA right-of-way on the south side of Roundup Substation that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation with minimal impacts to non-listed plants. There are no listed or special-status species present.

Notes:

- The ground disturbance area would be revegetated upon completion by the applicant.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would be in established BPA right-of-way on the south side of Roundup Substation. Installation of the underground line is expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any non-listed, 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: There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be in any creek or wetland area.

Notes:

- Use of BMPs for dust and erosion control would be expected to be used at the project site.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project 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 no impact to the BPA right-of-way located next to the Roundup Substation.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes 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 direct impact.

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: BPA is the underlying landowner and BPA Realty is in coordination with Pacificorp for this project.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey April 15, 2021
Christopher H. Furey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist