

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Environmental Sampling and Remediation within the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard Transmission Line Corridor - LURR19941053 Amendment #7

**Project No.:** LURR19941053 Amendment #7 (formerly named Update #1 to LURR20180169)

**Project Manager:** Charlene Belt – 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 Coles and Betts Environmental Consulting, LLC, its related entities, and its environmental contractors to perform environmental sampling and remediation actions on BPA fee-owned property near structure 4/4 of the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard No. 1 transmission line. The purpose of this work is to mitigate an underground gasoline storage tank leak that migrated underground into BPA property from the site of a gasoline station across Falk Road.

The environmental contractor proposes to:

- Perform a geophysical survey and install temporary borings, temporary groundwater monitoring wells, and temporary soil gas monitoring borings.
- Install permanent groundwater monitoring wells to document the extent of potential groundwater contamination.
- When gasoline leak cleanup goals are met, then decommission the wells.

The temporary borings would be about 3 inches in diameter, and the temporary groundwater wells would be about 2 inches in diameter and would extend 15 to 60 feet below ground surface (bgs), as determined onsite by field conditions. No more than a total of 15 borings would occur on the BPA right-of-way. All borings and wells would be installed with a direct push drill rig mounted on a box truck or track rig. The temporary groundwater well screens, made of PVC material, would be installed in the boring holes, and temporary soil gas monitoring borings would be about 3 inches in diameter and installed about 5 feet bgs using a hand auger tool.

The results of the previously described actions would inform whether or not new permanent groundwater wells would be required and where within the previously defined project area they would be installed. If required, the contractor would install up to 10 new permanent groundwater monitoring wells, beyond the flush mount and pop up wells that already exist within the BPA right-of-way. The PVC groundwater monitoring wells would be 2 inches diameter and installed in a 4-inch diameter hole. The wells would be installed to depths between 20 and 60 feet bgs, and sand would be installed in the space between the boring wall and the PVC well. A bentonite seal would be installed above the sand pack. For flush mount

wells, an area about 1 foot in diameter around the well would be excavated to about 1 foot bgs to install a concrete monument with a locking steel cover. For pop-up wells, the PVC casing would extend about 2 to 3 feet above ground surface and an exterior locking casing would be installed around the well cap. Similar to existing pop-up wells onsite, bollards would be installed around each new well to prevent potential vehicle collisions and damage to the wells.

All temporary borings, temporary groundwater wells, and temporary soil gas borings would be installed and backfilled the same day or the next day with bentonite chips per Washington State Law requirements. The permanent groundwater monitoring wells would remain within BPA right-of-way until gasoline tank leak cleanup goals are met, in accordance with Washington State Pollution Liability Insurance Association requirements. Once the cleanup goals have been met, the wells would be decommissioned by a licensed driller, the PVC casing removed, and the holes would be backfilled with bentonite chips. All areas where vegetation is disturbed by project activities would be replanted with a seed mix appropriate for the region comprised of native species, and that is locally sourced.

**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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>June 23, 2021</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	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:** Environmental Sampling and Remediation within the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard Transmission Line Corridor - LURR19941053 Amendment #7 (formerly named Update #1 to LURR20180169)

## Project Site Description

The project area is about 7 acres in size and is located in a BPA right-of-way corridor between East Fourth Plain Blvd. and structure 4/2 of the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard No. 1 transmission line, in Vancouver, Washington. The right-of-way corridor also contains the North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 and No. 1 transmission lines, and is managed for low-growing vegetation. A paved recreational trail, lined with wood bollards and heavy cable fencing, winds through the corridor. Linda Lane passes under the transmission lines and leads to a residence located just west and outside of the right-of-way. The project area is surrounded by local businesses, suburban residences, and urban parks, and some undeveloped areas with mature trees. No wetlands or water bodies are located within the project area; however, Burnt Bridge Creek and its associated riparian area parallel the western edge of the project area and right-of-way corridor.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

### 1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist initiated Section 106 consultation for LURR19941053 Amendment #7 (with the former project name LURR20180169) with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon on March 15, 2021. In that same correspondence, the BPA archaeologist communicated his conclusion that implementation of the proposed undertaking would result in a No Historic Properties Affected determination. DAHP formally responded on March 15, 2021, concurring with the Area of Potential Effect, and clarified on March 16, 2021, via email that DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected. No responses were received from the Cowlitz Indian Tribe or the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The contractor shall carry with them onsite BPA's Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources Procedure document, and shall review the procedure prior to conducting work. Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the EC lead should be notified immediately.

### 2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Soil cores would be placed in steel 55-gallon drums and relocated to the gas station property across Falk Road. The drums would be transported to a regulated landfill for

disposal. Boring holes would be backfilled with bentonite clay. Standard construction erosion and sedimentation control plan best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented.

Notes:

- Plywood mats would be temporarily placed under the wheels or tracks of the box truck or track rig to prevent soil rutting.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed plant species. Project activities would be limited to the areas in the right-of-way corridor already affected by BPA's vegetation management program activities.

Notes:

- Vegetation that could be disturbed by project activities include native and non-native grasses and weed species, including ox-eye daisy and hairy cat's ear.
- All areas where vegetation is disturbed by project activities would be replanted with a seed mix appropriate for the region comprised of native species, and that is locally sourced.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any wildlife species listed under the ESA in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed wildlife species. Generalist wildlife-species that are habituated to frequent human activity and urban right-of-way corridor habitats would temporarily relocate to other areas while project activities are underway, and are expected to return shortly after work is completed.

### **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 present within the project area; therefore, no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be impacted within the project area. BMPs would be implemented to ensure excavated soils would not impact aquatic resources located beyond the project's boundary line, such as Burnt Bridge Creek (designated critical habitat) or fish that could inhabit the creek (such as federally-listed Lower Columbia River coho).

Notes:

- Burnt Bridge Creek's riparian habitat borders the project area's boundary line, and the creek's edge is about 170 feet south of the project area's boundary line.

### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands within the project area; therefore, no wetlands would be impacted by project activities. BMPs would be implemented to ensure excavated soils would not impact aquatic resources located beyond the project area's boundary line.

Notes:

- Burnt Bridge Creek's riverine wetland habitat, as identified by the National Wetland Inventory database, meanders northwest to southeast, just south of the right-of-way corridor and the project area's southern boundary line. At its closest point, the wetland habitat is about 100 feet away from the project area.

## 7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is within the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10 Troutdale Sole Source Aquifer System area. Temporary and permanent monitoring wells could be installed up to 60 feet bgs for the sole purpose of monitoring the extent of the gasoline-contaminated groundwater plume in the vicinity of Falk Road and Linda Lane. BMPs would be implemented during project activities to prevent the potential migration of the gasoline-contaminated groundwater plume from reaching currently uncontaminated areas.

## 8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not change the current land use at this site. No specially-designated areas are located within the project area; recreationalists using the paved path would still be able to do so, and no land use changes are proposed.

## 9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would not impact the visual quality of the right-of-way because the installation of monitoring equipment would look similar to existing conditions. The site already has monitoring wells and protective bollards installed and the addition of up to 10 more would not be a substantial visual impact. Therefore, no changes to the visual quality of the area are anticipated.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project would have a small impact on air quality because project activities would generate a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust during the 1-2 days of work at the site.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary noise would increase in the local area during project activities. The monitoring equipment would not produce any operational noise once installed at the site.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Workers performing the project activities would wear personal protective equipment. Project activities do not present a risk of danger 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: This project would not create an uncontrolled or unpermitted release of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum or natural gas products that preexist in the environment because the aquifer is not confined and would not create an artesian situation where contaminated groundwater would “erupt” to or above the ground surface, and because the geology in the area does not have any petroleum or natural gas products.

**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: Cole and Betts Environmental Consulting, LLC, its related entities, and its environmental contractors are responsible for coordinating with adjacent landowners, as appropriate.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill, ECT-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

June 23, 2021

Date