

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Parking Lot Light Pole Installations

**Project No.:** LURR 2022047

**Project Manager:** Charlene Belt, TERR-ROSS MHQA

**Location:** Clark County, WA

**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 project proponent to install three 30-foot-tall wooden light poles within BPA's fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) for the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line. The parking lot lies within the ROW and is adjacent to the Evergreen Ridge apartment complex, located off of NE Minnehaha Street, Vancouver, Washington. The project proponent would use a 6-inch diameter directional bore to install underground electrical conduit at a depth of 48 inches for the three light poles.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>July 11, 2022</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

Attachment: 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:** Parking Lot Light Pole Installations

## **Project Site Description**

The project location is adjacent to NE Minnehaha Street in Vancouver, Washington. The legal description for the location is Section 11, Township 2 North, Range 1 East. BPA's Ross-Lexington, No. 1 transmission line right-of-way crosses the project area, near structure 1/4. The project area is comprised of a paved parking lot and a maintained lawn. The nearest water body is an unnamed intermittent stream, located 0.30 miles to the southwest of the project.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA's contract archaeologist conducted a background search on the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) database and determined that the area of potential effects (APE) had been previously surveyed and no cultural resources were identified. The BPA contract archaeologist determined that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. On May 10, 2022, the determination was sent to DAHP, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and Cowlitz Indian Tribe. DAHP concurred with the determination on May 11, 2022. Neither of the tribes have responded.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal soil disturbance would occur. A 6-foot-deep hole would be excavated to install the new wooden light poles. Excavated soils would be used to backfill around the new poles.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in previously-disturbed and developed areas. No special-status plant species are present or known to occur at the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur in previously-disturbed areas. No special-status species are present or known to occur at the project site.

**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 habitat present within, or adjacent to, the project area.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Groundwater monitoring wells in the area indicate that groundwater levels are about 120-feet below ground level. Excavation for the project would be six-feet-deep and groundwater is unlikely to be encountered. The site is located on top of an EPA Region 10 sole source aquifer; however, the project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

**8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Light pole installations are compatible with the existing develop at and around the project location. There are no specially-designated areas at the site. Therefore, there would be no changes to land use or impacts to specially-designated areas.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to the visual quality of the developed area.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A temporary increase in fugitive dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction. The project would have no long-term impacts on air quality.

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During project activities, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or safety. The objective of the project is to increase safety for residents and visitors to the apartment complex.

### **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 of the property. Landowner coordination would not be required.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger July 11, 2022  
Beth Belanger, ECT-4 Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist