

# memorandum

DATE: April 11, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amanda Williams  
Project Manager, TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Line Tap Construction on the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg Transmission Line

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Location:** Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to build a tap on its East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg 115-kV transmission line to connect the City of Ellensburg's new Helena Avenue Substation in East Ellensburg, Washington. The tap would involve replacing two existing transmission line wood-pole structures located across the street from the City's substation with two new steel monopoles. New conductor would be installed between the steel monopoles and the substation, new disconnect switches would be added adjacent to the monopole structures, and metering equipment would be installed within the City's new substation. The City's new substation is needed to serve load growth within the Ellensburg area.

One steel monopole structure would replace wood-pole structure 2/4 and one structure would replace either wood-pole structure 2/6 or 2/7 on the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg line. New disconnect switches would be mounted on the new steel monopole at structure 2/6 or 2/7. Minor grading would be needed at both structures to create landings for construction vehicles and ground disturbing activities would be limited to a 100 foot by 100 foot area around each structure.

The new steel monopole structures may require concrete shaft foundations, which would involve augering a hole, installing a rebar cage and anchor bolts, and backfilling with concrete. The new poles would then be bolted to the top of the concrete foundation. If a concrete shaft foundations are not required, the steel poles would be directly embedded in an augered hole, and backfilled with gravel. The existing poles would be cut below ground surface and removed. Any excess soil or rock from the holes would be scattered on-site, native soils would be spread over the cut ends, and the surface would be restored to original site conditions.

Overhead conductor, insulators and line hardware would be installed between the tap structure and a deadend A-frame structure within the City's substation yard. Metering and communication equipment would be installed in the substation control house. Construction equipment would include bucket truck, crane/auger truck, forklift, dump trucks, fire trailer, tool trailer, rubber tire

backhoe, handheld compactor, and miscellaneous small hand tools. The site is accessible by the existing Helena Avenue road, so that road would also be used for access when the City constructs their new substation.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

*/s/ Andrew M. Montaña, PMP*  
Andrew M. Montaña, PMP  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy Mason*  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *April 11, 2014*

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Line Tap Construction on the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg Transmission Line

**Work Order #:** 00349181

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources APE concurrence on 2/11/2014; Final Determination concurrence on 3/10/2014 (SHPO Case No. 021114-02-BPA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Andrew M. Montaña, PMP

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