

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Prosser Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain #1 Wood Pole Replacement.

Project Manager: Joseph Lauer

Location: Benton County, Washington; BPA's Pasco District

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace one deteriorating wood pole structure and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) on the Prosser Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain #1 transmission line.

See table below for the structure name and location on the transmission line.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Prosser Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain #1	6/7	9N	24E	36	Benton, WA

Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Structure being replaced is in an easement on privately-owned property. The structure is located within an agricultural field. Access road maintenance is not anticipated for this project. If needed, road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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, July 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/ Shawn Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 11, 2015

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist

cc: (w/ enclosures)
Wilfong, Greg – TFPF-PASCO
Alexander Jr, Ron – TFPG-ASHE

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.

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Project Site Description

The project area is located on private property, within agricultural field. The area has been previously disturbed by agricultural practices.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (one 100x100 foot area), erosion control measures would be used.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present. Area of disturbance is frequently disturbed by agriculture operations.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special status species or designated habitat present. Area is previously disturbed by agriculture.		

5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



Explanation: Water bodies are located over .25 miles from the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Wetlands are located over .25 miles from the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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



Explanation: Temporary agricultural impacts during construction; landowner will be compensation for crop damage, as needed.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: New wood-poles would not be noticeably different than existing poles.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust will be of minor concern due to the timing of construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.

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, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description:

Coordination with property owner has occurred. No Concerns.

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

Signed: /s/ Shawn Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt/KEPR-Pasco

Date: February 11, 2015