

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Keeler-Forest Grove Transmission Line Structure Relocations

Project Manager: Daniel Nunez TELP-TPP-3

Location: Washington County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to relocate wood-pole transmission line structures at the request of the City of Hillsboro to accommodate future road widening projects. The City's request is part of a partnership with Portland General Electric and Washington County to address growing commercial and residential development in the area. To accommodate the request, BPA would move several wood poles along its Keeler-Forest Grove No. 1 and 2 transmission lines. Three locations have been identified for structure relocation: Century Crossing, 253rd Avenue, and Brookwood/Huffman Crossing.

At Century Crossing, structures 2/3 of Keeler-Forest Grove Nos. 1 and 2 lines would be moved ahead on-line (AOL) 100 feet and replaced with 10-foot taller poles. Access to the site would be via existing local roads and temporary route of travel on disturbed BPA right-of-way (ROW) owned by the City of Hillsboro. The move would allow for a future road across Highway 26.

At the 253rd Avenue location, Keeler-Forest Grove No. 2 structure 3/4 would be moved 50 feet back on-line (BOL) and replaced with 15-foot taller poles to accommodate proposed road expansion work by the City. Access to the site would be via 253rd Avenue and through temporary route of travel crossing an existing remnant prairie habitat and farm field along BPA ROW.

At the Brookwood/Huffman Crossing location Keeler-Forest Grove No. 2 pole 2/8 would be replaced with a new 15-foot taller 3-pole deadend structure. Pole 2/9 would be moved 370 feet AOL and changed from a 2-pole to a 20-foot taller 3-pole deadend. Access to the site would be via Brookwood Parkway and temporary route of travel that crosses an existing farm field along BPA ROW.

Removal of existing poles would involve excavating around the base and using a boom truck to pull the pole out of the ground. Conductors and overhead ground wire would be propped up by a line truck while a new pole hole is augered and placed. Holes would be backfilled with excavated material and gravel, as required. Pole replacement would disturb a 50 by 100-foot area per pole. All activities would take place within the existing BPA ROW in an area that has been previously disturbed by transmission line construction and farm operations.

Hardware attaching aerial fiber along the Keeler-Forest Grove No. 2 line may need to be replaced on some of the poles to accommodate new slack once the towers are raised. Rather than replace the fiber cable, slack will come from an existing fiber vault where it can be pulled.

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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 3, 2015

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.

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Project Site Description

Century Crossing is located in a heavily disturbed area adjacent to Highway 26 and a parking lot for sporting facilities. The 253rd and Brookwood/Huffman locations are in farmfields that are currently in production. The 253rd Avenue location also crosses a small portion of remnant prairie habitat that includes sedges, common camas, Pacific sanicle, Pacific aster, and Nutka rose.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> OR SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect to historic properties on May 5, 2015.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance, erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present. Less than an acre of remnant prairie habitat surrounding tower 3/4 would be disturbed (see mitigation for #4 Wildlife).</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Remnant prairie habitat surrounding tower 3/4 could be suitable for Fender's blue butterfly, however no nectar plants were discovered during survey. Potential impacts minimized with mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reduce construction footprint to 50x50 feet around tower and minimize temporary access route disturbance. Turn around at structures only. ✓ All vehicles and machinery must use wash station before entering area ✓ Restore prairie areas cleared for construction to preconstruction condition. ✓ Re-vegetate disturbed areas with native seed mixes and plantings that include nectar plants for Fender's blue butterfly, if significant ground disturbance occurs to native habitat (e.g. areas not actively farmed) 		

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



Explanation:

None present.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

Impacts to a palustrine emergent wetland surrounding tower 3/4 would be temporary impacts and would be minimized with the following mitigation measures:

- ✓ Temporary access only through agricultural field. Reduce construction footprint to 50x50 feet around tower and minimize temporary access route disturbance.
- ✓ Confine construction vehicles, equipment, and construction activities within the right-of-way and designated work areas
- ✓ Use wetland mats during tower construction if area is wet during construction.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

None present.

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



Explanation:

No change to land use proposed. Project area would be returned to present use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

Change in pole locations would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

No 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, 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: Permission to Enter Property letters were sent to underlying landowners within the right-of-way describing the project and requesting right of entry. Notification letters will be sent to all landowners prior to construction work.

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

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory

Date: June 3, 2015