

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Big Eddy-Redmond #1 Wood Pole Replacement

**Project No. (if applicable):** 3151

**Project Manager:** Richard Heredia

**Location:** Wasco and Jefferson counties, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace 14 deteriorating wood poles on its Big Eddy-Redmond #1 230-kV transmission line to ensure continued operational reliability. The proposed maintenance involves replacement of existing wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (i.e. cross arms, insulators, guys and guy anchors, etc.). The wood poles will be mechanically removed from the ground. The replacement structure would in-kind, having the same height as the original. The locations of the wood pole structures to be replaced are shown in the following table:

Big Eddy-Redmond #1 Wood Pole Replacement Project Locations

Mile	Structure	Owner	Town	Range	Sec	County
37	4	Private	5S	14E	25	Wasco
37	5	Private	5S	14E	25	Wasco
37	7	Private	5S	14E	36	Wasco
38	2	Private	5S	14E	36	Wasco
38	3	Private	5S	14E	36	Wasco
38	6	Private	5S	14E	36	Wasco
39	1	Private	6S	15E	6	Wasco
39	2	Private	6S	15E	6	Wasco
43	3	Private	6S	15E	29	Wasco
51	2	Private	7S	15E	32	Wasco
53	6	Private	8S	15E	17	Wasco
53	7	Private	8S	15E	17	Wasco
53	8	Private	8S	15E	17	Wasco
57	6	Private	9S	15E	6	Jefferson

The work may include creating a 50- by 50-foot earthen landing adjacent to the structure to allow equipment staging for pole removal and replacement. The new poles for the structure would either be placed back in the existing holes, or an auger attached to a backhoe would be used to drill new holes approximately five feet ahead or back on line from the existing poles. This would allow for the new pole holes to be drilled before the line outage, since this process can be time consuming and the outage is of

limited duration. During the line outage, the existing poles would then be removed and the new poles installed in the existing or pre-drilled holes.

Ground disturbance for the pole replacement would not extend beyond a 100-foot radius around the existing pole structure. No access road improvements will be needed for this project.

**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/ Aaron Shurtliff*  
Aaron Shurtliff  
Environmental Engineer

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce*  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *April 20, 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.

**Proposed Action:** Big Eddy-Redmond #1 Wood Pole Replacement

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### Project Site Description

The project is located on private land with sparse vegetation consisting primarily of shrubs and grasses. Topography varies from flat to moderately hilly with some ravines.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No resources identified during cultural surveys. Concurrence from SHPO received November 19, 2014. Consulted with Burns-Paiute, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs – no response.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No sensitive or protected plant species		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No sensitive or protected wildlife/habitat		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No impact on groundwater

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

Explanation: Consistent with existing land use

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change to visual quality, tower replacement in-kind

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Some temporary construction dust

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: n/a

### **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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Crews will coordinate with local landowners as needed during construction

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

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff  
Aaron Shurtliff  
Environmental Engineer

Date: *April 20, 2015*