

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Spring Creek-Wine Country #1 Dampener Project.

Project Manager: Joseph Lauer

Location: Klickitat and Yakima Counties, Washington; BPA's Wenatchee 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 install dampeners from structure 6/5 to 11/2 on the Spring Creek-Wine Country #1 transmission line.

See table below for the structure names and locations on the transmission line.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Spring Creek-Wine Country #1	6/5	6N	20E	4	Klickitat, WA
	7/1-7/3	6N	20E	3	Yakima, WA
	7/4-7/5	7N	20E	34	
	8/1-9/1	7N	20E	35	
	9/2-10/2	7N	20E	36	
	10/3-11/2	7N	21E	30	

The Spring Creek-Wine Country No 1 230 kV line has a history of experiencing high levels of wind and icing in the vicinity of transmission tower structures 6/5 through 11/2. This section of transmission line was rebuilt in 2003 due to severe icing and vibration damage. During the rebuild, the section was not damped because 1-inch ice was used for conductor tension, and damping was determined to be unnecessary. After an Engineering Analysis was performed, and additional information was provided by the Ellensburg District, BPA recommends that the transmission tower structures 6/5 through 11/2 section be damped to address the damage that has already occurred, and damped to prevent future vibration damage. This project will not require ground disturbance and landing activities. There is small truck access to every tower. At locations where bucket truck access is limited, the TLM crew will climb the transmission tower structures to complete the work.

All work will take place within BPA's easement on privately-owned property. The land use under this section of line is cattle grazing.

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 L. Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: March 18, 2015

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist

ecc: (w/ enclosures)
C. Rounds – TEP-TPP-11

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: Spring Creek-Wine Country #1 Dampener Project

Project Site Description

The project area is located on private property. 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> No soil disturbance expected.		
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: No water bodies are located within the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are located within 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: The addition of new dampers would not be noticeably different than the existing line.

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 L. Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt/KEPR-Pasco

Date: March 18, 2015