

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chehalis District Access Road Maintenance

Project No. (if applicable): PP&A-3164

Project Manager: Rick Ross

Location: Pacific, Cowlitz, and Thurston County, Washington.

Chehalis District Access Road Maintenance Locations

Transmission Line/ROW	Line Mile	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
Naselle-Tarlette #1	7-8	11N	10W	27	Pacific, WA	Private
Naselle-Tarlette #2	14-15	10N	11W	24	Pacific, WA	Private
Naselle-Tarlette #2	15	10N	11W	14	Pacific, WA	Private
Naselle-Tarlette #2	15	10N	11W	23	Pacific, WA	Private
Longview-Chehalis #1	1	8N	3W	38	Cowlitz, WA	Private
Paul-Alston #2	29	10N	2W	6	Cowlitz, WA	Private
Paul-Alston #2	42	8N	3W	12	Cowlitz, WA	Private
Paul-Alston #2	37	9N	2W	18	Cowlitz, WA	Private
Paul-Satsop #1	4	15N	2W	11	Cowlitz, WA	Private
Raver-Paul #1	57	16N	1W	28	Thurston, WA	Private

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to maintain a total of about 3.2 miles of existing serviceable access and structure spur roads spread over numerous locations. The work would include minor blading, shaping, grading and adding three to six inches of 3-inch minus crushed gravel to. General equipment used for this type of project includes graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines, which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be done in accordance with the National Electric 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/ Aaron Shurtliff
Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

Concur:

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

Date: June 11, 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: Chehalis District Access Road Maintenance

Project Site Description

These existing access roads cross through private land consisting of forest and rural land uses. The topography varies from flat to hilly.

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> According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The proposed action is considered to be routine access road maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage stormwater run-off and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work will take place on existing access roads</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No listed plant species in the project area</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No listed wildlife or habitat in the project area</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work is planned and no listed fish species within the project area</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands within the project area

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Groundwater will not be affected

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

Explanation: Consistent with the existing land use

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change to visual quality

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Some temporary dust during construction

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary noise during construction

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No change to human health or safety

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: Crews will coordinate with landowners as needed during construction.

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, KEPR-4

Date: June 11, 2015