

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** FY15 Snohomish District Danger Pole Replacement Project (*Update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on April 23, 2015*)

**PP&A #:** 3178

**Project Manager:** Cynthia Rounds

**Location:** Snohomish County, WA

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership/Land Use
Snohomish-Beverly Park #4	3/9 (new)	28N	5E	9	Snohomish, WA	Private Agriculture
	5/2	28N	5E	8	Snohomish, WA	Puget Sound Energy
Snohomish-PUD #3	3/5 (new)	28N	5E	10	Snohomish, WA	Private Agriculture
	3/6 (new)	28N	5E	10	Snohomish, WA	Private Agriculture
Snohomish-Murray #1	13/4	30N	5E	13	Snohomish, 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 replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) at the locations specified in the Location Section of this document. Replacement will be in-kind and will 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. New landing construction or access road development is not planned at these locations. Minor maintenance of landing and roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required.

The proposed action will 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/ Oden Jahn  
Oden Jahn  
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: June 4, 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:** FY15 Snohomish District Danger Pole Replacement Project (*Updated*)

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### Project Site Description

Grass & shrub right-of-way surrounded by agricultural, residential, and rural residential land.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p><b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p> <p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;"><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 maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, and will be limited to maintenance on an existing structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Poles will be placed in existing locations. New landing construction is not planned or anticipated. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</p> <p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;">Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2. Geology and Soils</b></p> <p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;"><u>Explanation:</u> The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities, and may result in minor temporary disturbance. Prime farmland and prime farmland if drained occur in the project area along the Snohomish River floodplain. The project does not change the existing land use and is not anticipated to affect the ability to preform farming or other agricultural activities.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>3. Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)</p> <p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;"><u>Explanation:</u> No trees will be removed; about 1000 square feet of grasses/shrubs will be disturbed (mostly non-native or invasive species).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>4. Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p> <p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;"><u>Explanation:</u> No suitable habitat is present in project area for listed wildlife species. The work will also entail minimal human disturbance.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



Explanation: The Snohomish-Beverly Park #4 Structure 3/9 and the Snohomish-PUD #3 Structures 3/5 and 3/6 are located on the Snohomish River floodplain. Populations of ESA-listed resident and anadromous fish, and their CH are found in the Snohomish River which is approximately 415 feet from the Snohomish-Beverly Park #4 Structure 3/9 and approximately 780 feet from the Snohomish-PUD #3 Structures 3/5 and 3/6. The slope at the project location is flat at these locations and minimal soil disturbance is anticipated. Additionally, construction Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be implemented throughout the project to ensure localized soil disturbance does not cause sedimentation issues into any waterway. No in-water work is proposed for this project.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present in project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is in an upland area; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface.

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



Explanation: No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: New wood poles will be similar to existing structures would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise will be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities will not impact 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Notification letters will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to all landowners prior to work.

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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/ Oden Jahn  
Oden Jahn  
Environmental Scientist

Date: June 4, 2015