

Categorical Exclusion Determination
 Bonneville Power Administration
 Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Timber Tap Wood Pole Replacement Project 2015

PP&A No: 3216

Project Manager: Gary Beck TEP-TPP-1

Location: Washington County, 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 perform in-kind replacement of 20 wood pole structures along the Timber Tap transmission line corridor. No road or landing work is scheduled to be performed. The location and identification of the structures proposed for replacement are:

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Timber Tap	1/6, 1/9	2N	5W	36	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	1/11, 2/6, 2/8	2N	5W	25	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	2/9	2N	5W	26	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	3/3, 3/5, 3/6, 4/1	2N	5W	23	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	4/7	2N	5W	14	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	6/6, 7/3	2N	5W	3	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	7/6, 7/7, 8/1	3N	5W	34	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	8/5, 9/2	3N	5W	27	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	10/2	3N	5W	22	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry
	10/4	3N	5W	15	Washington, OR	Commercial forestry

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/ Philip Smith for
Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: August 7, 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

The poles would be replaced, in kind, within existing right-of-way that crosses commercial forest land.

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"/>
<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. 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. The area is previously disturbed agriculture.</p> <p>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 the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The entire work area is within commercial forestry managed lands.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No refuges and/or state-listed habitats occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.</p>		

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

Explanation: At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: A review of national wetland inventories found no wetland areas within or adjacent to the subject transmission line structures.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: The project does not involve deep drilling or excavation. Spill prevention measures would be implemented on site.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: Primarily commercial forestry uses.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: In-kind replacements. There will be no noticeable change from existing pole structures.

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Dust control measures will be used if necessary.

11. Noise

Explanation: Construction noise will be short duration and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: A site specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis will be approved prior to work commencing.

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: All landowners will be notified of pending work several weeks before construction begins.

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

Signed: /s/ Philip Smith for
Benjamin Tilley

Date: August 7, 2015