

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chenoweth-Harvey Transmission Line Sale

Project Manager: Joan Kendall – TERR-3

Location: Wasco County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to sell its Harvey Substation site and 1.15 miles of its Chenoweth-Harvey transmission line easement to Northern Wasco County People's Utility District (PUD). The Chenoweth-Harvey line was decommissioned by BPA in 2007. It is a double circuited line that runs from BPA's Chenoweth Substation to tower 1/10, which is the last structure prior to the previously dismantled Harvey Substation site. The line and substation were initially constructed in 1958 to supply power to the Harvey Aluminum Company which is no longer an operating facility.

BPA would sell its existing transmission line and substation easement rights together with all assets, including towers, footings, support structures, and appurtenances. Northern Wasco County PUD would use the transmission line and substation site to serve industrial development in The Dalles, Oregon.

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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 23, 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: Chenoweth-Harvey Transmission Line Sale

Project Site Description

The Chenoweth-Harvey transmission line is located in Wasco County, Oregon along existing BPA right-of-way.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The line and substation sale were determined to have no potential to effect historic properties or cultural resources. No consultation is required.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – property sale only.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – property sale only.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – property sale only.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance proposed – property sale only.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u>		

No disturbance proposed – property sale only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – property sale only.

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



Explanation:

BPA would sell easement rights on private land. Land use would remain unchanged.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – property sale only.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – property sale only.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – property sale only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

No disturbance proposed – property sale only.

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: A portion of the project traverses the Martin Marietta capped landfill Superfund site near tower 1/5. BPA is not listed as a potentially responsible party and therefore has nothing to disclose under CERCLA. Sale of the line and easement would have no effect on the status of the site.

- 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: BPA's easement rights are granted to BPA and its assigns. No new rights are needed from the underlying landowner to complete this sale.

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

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory

Date: July 23, 2015