

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Little Goose-Lower Granite #1 Fiber Repair Project

**Project Manager:** Greg Wilfong

**Location:** Garfield County, Washington; BPA's Pasco 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 repair damaged fiber optic cable approximately 60 feet back-on-line of structure 30/2 on the Little Goose-Lower Granite 500 kV Transmission Line. The work would include installing a 500 feet road, a wood pole and two concrete fiber vaults.

See table below for the structure name and location on the transmission line.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Little Goose-Lower Granite #1	30/2	14N	42E	35	Garfield, WA

All work will take place within BPA's easement on privately-owned property. The land uses in the project area are dry land farming and cattle grazing. Undisturbed areas in the vicinity of the line are covered in native grasses.

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 L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 19, 2015

Attachment:  
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:** Little Goose-Lower Granite #1 Fiber Repair Project

---

### Project Site Description

The project area is located on private property. The area has been previously disturbed by agricultural practices and grazing.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> WA SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination received May 28, 2015. <i>The Umatilla, Colville and Nez Perce Tribes</i> were consulted—no responses were received. 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.		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance for the road (15x500 feet area), wood pole (50x50 feet area) and vaults (2-10x10 feet area). Erosion control measures will be used.		
<b>3. Plants</b> (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.		
<b>4. Wildlife</b> (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 repair of the fiber 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 owners is being conducted by the BPA Realty office.

---

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: August 19, 2015