

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Longview-Allston No. 1-2, Structure 2/2 Slope Inclinometer Installation

**PP&A No.:** 3421

**Project Manager:** Richard Ross– Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** Cowlitz County, Washington

Transmission Line/ROW	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
Longview-Allston No. 1-2	08N	03W	25	Cowlitz, WA	PRIVATE

## **Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):**

B3.1 Site characterization/environmental monitoring

### **Description of the Proposed Action:**

BPA proposes to bore three holes for installation of slope inclinometers around Structure 2/2 on the Longview-Allston No. 1-2 Transmission Line, and to construct approximately 416 feet of new road to access the proposed boring locations. Structure 2/2 is a 230 kV double-circuit, dead-end steel lattice tower located on the landslide prone Mt. Solo, just west of Longview, WA. The structure has bent legs, which are likely the result of a recent, slow-moving landslide. Installation of three inclinometers is proposed to monitor ground movement for two years, at which point, a mitigation plan will be developed to permanently repair the structure.

Each boring hole would be 8 inches in diameter and 60-feet deep. The boring process and subsequent installation of inclinometers will disturb vegetation within 30-foot diameter areas centered at each boring hole. General equipment used for this type of project includes dozers, drill rig, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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/ Kevin George*

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist – EPI-4

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah Biegel*

Sarah Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 5, 2016

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

Proposed inclinometer installation and access road maintenance activities are located in a 0.4-acre project site that is approximately 0.75-mile southwest of Longview, WA, roughly between West Longview and the Columbia River. There are no waterbodies that intersect the project site – the nearest waterbody is 0.25-mile southwest of the project site. Elevation (above mean sea level) within the project site ranges from approximately 244 feet to 330 feet with an average elevation of 282 feet. The project site and surrounding areas are privately owned. The project site vegetation is primarily grasses and shrubs. Land use in the surrounding area includes forestland, agriculture, and scattered, semi-rural/suburban development.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA initiated consultation on the Mt. Solo Tower stabilization project, which shares an area of potential effect (APE) with the Longview-Allston No. 1-2, Structure 2/2 Slope Inclinometer Installation project, with Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe on April 20, 2015. DAHP concurred with the APE on April 23, 2015. On October 5, 2015, BPA made a determination of No Historic Properties Effected and submitted that to both DAHP and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, both of whom had no comment to make on that determination. No comments were received during the National Historic Preservation Act-mandated 30-day consultation period.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soils would be disturbed within the proposed access road prism (416 feet long) as dozers will have to bench roads in sloped areas. Soils will be disturbed for installation of the inclinometers (8 inches in diameter and 60-feet deep). Minimal soil disturbance is proposed; erosion control measures would be used. Excess boring soils will be spread and stabilized on-site. Stabilization will include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species present. Grasses and shrubs (mostly non-native or invasive species) will be removed and/or disturbed (approximately 0.4 acre). Disturbed areas will be reseeded.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: No special-status species or designated habitat present. Low-quality habitat typical of the area would be disturbed (0.4 acre).

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



Explanation: No water bodies are present within 0.25-mile of the project site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands that overlap with the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new groundwater wells or use of groundwater proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 60 feet for inclinometer installation; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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



Explanation: Natural land cover typical of the area will be impacted during construction; no specially-designated areas are located within the project site.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All improvements will be at ground level. The new road may be visible from an adjacent roadway or from the Mt. Solo area northeast of the project site. Due to the high density of roads in this area, the addition of a 416-foot road is not expected to change the visual quality within the project site.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise may result from road improvement and drilling activities.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields will result from the project.

### **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: The project is located entirely on private land. No public land agencies were contacted. Landowners will be contacted by the contractor performing the work prior to construction.

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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/ Kevin George  
Kevin George – EPI-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 5, 2016