

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Fairview-Bandon No. 1 Span 12/2 Impairment Remedy

PP&A No.: 3,376

Project Manager: Thomas Murphy, TELP-TPP-3

Location: Coos County, Oregon

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

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plans to replace an H frame wooden utility pole structure in mile 12 along the Fairview-Bandon No. 1 115 kV transmission line. The structure is located in the SE quarter of Township 28 south, Range 12 west, Section 21 in Coos County, Oregon in the transmission line right-of-way (ROW). A recent survey showed that the clearance between the conductor and the ground surface is not adequate to maintain the current transmission line rating. The structure will be replaced in the same location with a 15-foot taller H frame wood pole structure to increase clearance between the conductor and the ground surface and to meet industry-wide safety and performance standards. All construction activity will be located in the BPA transmission ROW within 50 feet of the wood pole structure. Project work includes but is not limited to; removing the existing wood pole structure with heavy machinery, installing the taller structure in the same location, reattaching guy anchors, and restringing the conductor. The proposed project is located on a BPA easement on private land.

Erosion control measures for this project will include utilizing erosion control devices (i.e. silt fencing, straw bales, etc.) to minimize sedimentation of any nearby water resources during project activities and reseeding with a U.S. Forest Service approved seed mix to stabilize any disturbed vegetative areas.

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/ Aaron C. Siemers

Aaron C. Siemers

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 15, 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

Fairview-Bandon No. 1 Span 12/2 is located in Coos County, southwest Oregon. The project area is in the Coastal Range, in the mountainous Mid-Coastal Sedimentary ecoregion, characterized by moderate to steep slopes, sandstone and siltstone surficial geology, silty clay loam soils and Douglas fir forests. The township, range and section is described below:

Township		Range		Section
28	S	12	W	21

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeological staff reviewed the project and determined due to the scope of the project that additional cultural resource review would not be required.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> The project involves soil disturbance in the immediate vicinity of one wood utility pole structure. The grade will be restored upon project completion and erosion control measures would be used to mitigate erosion.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present. Work is to be conducted in an existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW) using existing access roads. Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be seeded with a geographic and climate appropriate seed mix.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> See attached Effects Determination memo. No special-status species or designated habitat will be significantly impacted. Work would be performed in BPA transmission ROW, so no new habitat typical of the area will be</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

disturbed.

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



The project is not located in a floodplain. Typical erosion control BMPs would be implemented and no riparian habitat would be affected. The closest surface water body, Gray Creek, is located approximately 1,188 feet south of structure 12/2.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No new wells or use of ground water are proposed and spill prevention measures would be present.

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



Explanation:

Existing land use would not be affected as work will be completed in existing transmission ROW. No specially designated areas are present.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

The utility structure will be raised 15 feet but due to the elevation changes in the area, adjacent forest, and existing transmission line development, the project would not potentially impact the visual quality of the surrounding environment.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Construction activities may result in some minor temporary dust and vehicle emissions but no significant impacts would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Construction activities may result in some minor temporary noise but no significant impacts would occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

The project would 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: Not applicable to the scope of the project.

- 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: Not applicable to the scope of the project.

- 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: Not applicable to the scope of the project.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The proposed project is located on a BPA easement in private land. BPA would continue ongoing coordination with the landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Aaron Siemers
Aaron C. Siemers
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: April 15, 2016