

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Albany-Burnt Woods and Santiam-Toledo Line Raise Project

PP&A No.: 3,395

Project Manager: Amanda Williams - TEP-TPP-1

Location: Benton County, Oregon

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

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to raise wood pole structure 8/5 of the Albany-Burnt Woods transmission line and add a new wood pole structure directly adjacent to 8/5 along the Santiam-Toledo transmission line. A line truck would be used to detach and raise the conductor while an auger truck would remove the old poles, dig deeper holes, and insert the taller poles for the Albany-Burnt Woods line. A similar process would be used to construct the new pole structure on the Santiam-Toledo line. This work is necessary for the local utility, Consumer Power, Inc., to upgrade their distribution lines that cross under these BPA lines.

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/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 9, 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

The project is located within the Willamette Valley. The project area consists of agricultural land currently growing wheat.

Township		Range		Section	County
11	S	5	W	11	Benton, OR

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>The two lines were surveyed in 2008 by AAR as part of the Albany-Burnt woods rebuild. No sites were found at or near these structures. BPA Archaeologist determined that no historic properties are present within the proposed project area and that further section 106 obligations are not required.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>Minimal soil disturbance and erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>No special-status species present. Work is to be conducted in an existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW) in agricultural land. Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be seeded with a geographical and climate-appropriate seed mix or one approved by the landowner.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>No special-status species or designated habitat present. Work to be performed in existing ROW. No habitat would be disturbed when installing the pole structures.</p>		

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



Explanation:

Project would not be in a floodplain. There are no streams or drainages in or near the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; spill prevention measures would be present. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface, which is well above groundwater depth.

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



Explanation:

Existing land use would not be affected as work to be completed in existing ROW and would be consistent with the surrounding land use. No specially designated areas present.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

All work to be completed within the existing ROW and would not impact the visual quality of the surrounding environment.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Temporary dust and vehicle emission due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Temporary noise due to construction equipment.

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:

- 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: The proposed project is located on private agricultural 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/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: June 9, 2016