

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY16 Covington District Danger Pole Replacement Project

Project No.: 3407

Project Manager: Cynthia Rounds

Location: Snohomish County, WA

Transmission Line ROW	Structure	Township	Range	Section	County	Ownership/Land Use
South Tacoma-Southwest No. 1	1/2, 1/4	19N	3E	36	Pierce	Private/Suburban Residential
South Tacoma-Southwest No. 1	1/5	19N	3E	51	Pierce	Private/Undeveloped
South Tacoma-Southwest No. 1	2/2, 2/3	19N	3E	25	Pierce	Private/Suburban Residential
South Tacoma-Southwest No. 1	5/7, 5/9, 6/1, 6/4	19N	3E	1	Pierce	Private/Suburban Residential
South Tacoma-Southwest No. 1	6/11, 6/13	20N	3E	36	Pierce	Private/Undeveloped

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) at eleven transmission line structures specified in the Location Section of this document. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. New landing construction or access road development is not planned at these locations. Minor maintenance of landing and roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required.

The proposed action will 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/ Oden Jahn
Oden Jahn
Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 26, 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

Grass & shrub right-of-way surrounded by privately-owned suburban residential properties

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Explanation:</u> The South Tacoma-Southwest No. 1 transmission lines has been evaluated and determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The proposed action (in-kind pole replacement) will have no adverse effect to the integrity of the transmission line. On April 28, 2016 The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA’s determination that the proposed project would have “no adverse effect to historic properties.” BPA also consulted with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Snoqualmie Indian Tribe; however, no comments were received. ▪ <u>Mitigation:</u> In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager, interested tribes, DAHP, and the appropriate local, state and federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitat are recorded in the project area.		

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



Explanation: None present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Structure 6/1 is located in a wetland area. Work would take place under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12 with no pre-construction notification required. NWP 12, General, Regional, and Water Quality conditions would apply.

Mitigation: Use temporary matting during construction if the ground is too saturated to support transmission line equipment. Do not allow petroleum products, sediment, or other deleterious materials to enter any wetlands. Ensure spill containment and cleanup materials are readily available at the project site, staging areas, and in construction vehicles.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater.

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



Explanation: No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: New wood poles will be similar to existing structures would not be noticeably different than existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise from typical utility line equipment will be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities will 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: Notification letters will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to all landowners prior to work.

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

Signed: /s/ Oden Jahn
Physical Scientist

Date: May 26, 2016