

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Oregon City-Chemawa No. 2 wood pole replacements

**Project No.:** P02359

**Project Manager:** Cynthia Rounds, TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Marion County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace three wood monopole structures with taller poles on its Oregon City-Chemawa No. 2 115-kilovolt transmission line in Marion County, Oregon. The structure height increases are needed to accommodate a railroad spur that is proposed across BPA's transmission line easement. The railroad spur will extend from the existing Portland and Western railroad to a new fertilizer processing facility being constructed by Marion Ag Services Inc. immediately west of BPA's easement. BPA does not own its transmission line easement in fee. The three structures (12/1, 12/4, 12/5) will be replaced in-kind using the existing holes; however, they will be 10 to 15 feet taller to accommodate the railroad spur and associated rail traffic. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing holes prior to setting the new poles.

No access road improvements are required to conduct the pole replacements. All work will be conducted by BPA's transmission line maintenance crews. The pole replacements are tentatively scheduled to occur in January 2017 and will require 3 to 5 days to complete.

**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/ Justin Moffett

Justin Moffett

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 28, 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.

**Proposed Action:** Oregon City-Chemawa No. 2 wood pole replacements

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### Project Site Description

Project activities will occur within BPA’s transmission line easement which is situated between a railroad and Marion Ag Service’s fertilizer processing facility. The project area is flat and vegetation consists mostly of grasses and weedy species such as Queen Anne’s lace, curly doc, and prickly lettuce.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p><b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> The Oregon State historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with BPA’s determination of No Historic Properties Affected on October 31, 2016. BPA also consulted with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz which did not comment on the project.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Implement BPA’s Inadvertent Discovery Protocol (IDP) in the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities. Actions to be taken under the IDP include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Stopping work in the vicinity and immediately notifying the BPA environmental lead, BPA archaeologists, BPA project manager, interested tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate local, state and federal agencies.</li> <li>✓ Implementing reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.</li> <li>✓ Taking reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2. Geology and Soils</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 0.2 acre of temporary ground disturbance for installation of replacement poles.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) prior to any vegetation clearing and ground disturbing activities.</li> <li>✓ Reseed disturbed areas with erosion control seed mix.</li> <li>✓ Return disturbed soil to pre-project contours.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status species and no designated habitat present in the project area.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



Explanation: There are no special-status species and no designated habitat present in the project area.

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



Explanation: The project is located outside the 100-year floodplain and there are no waterbodies within 0.25 mile of the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands present in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed. Replacement poles would not be deep enough to intercept aquifers.

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



Explanation: The proposed action would not alter or affect existing land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The replacement structures would be 10 to 15 feet taller than then existing structures; however, they would not substantively alter or affect visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Vehicle emissions produced during construction activities would be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise would be intermittent, temporary, and localized. The nearest residence is within 100 feet of structure 12/5.

Mitigation:

- ✓ Notify adjacent home owners of proposed construction schedule at least one week before initiating project.
- ✓ Limit construction activities to daytime hours between 7:30am-5pm.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities would not affect 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:

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#### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA is actively coordinating with Portland and Western Railroad and Marion Ag Services.

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

Signed: /s/ Justin Moffett  
Justin Moffett ECT-4

Date: November 28, 2016