

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Kennewick Tap Upgrades

Project Manager: Todd Wehner – TEP-TPP-3

Location: Benton County, Washington

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to upgrade three transmission line structures—two on the Franklin-Badger Canyon No. 2 line and one on the Kennewick Tap to Franklin-Badger Canyon No. 2 line in Kennewick, Washington. The upgrades are needed to provide reliability and to provide for line maintenance without de-energizing local utility service. Structures 7/6 and 8/1 on the Franklin-Badger Canyon No. 2 line would be rebuilt and structure 7/7 would be replaced with a self-supporting structure. Temporary structures would be put in place to hold the transmission line while the proposed structures are rebuilt to prevent disruption to electrical service. In addition, structure 1/8 on the Kennewick Tap to Franklin-Badger Canyon No. 2 line would be rebuilt.

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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 6, 2017

Attachment: 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: Kennewick Tap Upgrades

Project Site Description

The proposed work would occur at Kennewick Tap in Benton County, Washington. The tap is within BPA right-of-way on the Franklin-Badger Canyon No. 2 line and on the Kennewick Tap to Franklin-Badger Canyon No. 2 line. The project area has been used for access to residences and transmission lines in the area and has been previously disturbed.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA's archaeologist determined that the tap upgrades would have no potential to effect historic properties or cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would impact approximately 0.5 acre of soil in previously disturbed area.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would occur in previously disturbed area. No special-status species are known to occur in the area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is not suitable for wildlife habitat. No special-status species are known to occur in the area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No floodplains or fish are present.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed.

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

Explanation: The project would be consistent with existing land use. There are no specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: A temporary shoofly would be erected for use during upgrades to existing structures. Modifications to structures would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: A temporary increase in noise would occur during daylight hours during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety is anticipated.

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 landowners have been notified of the project and coordination would be conducted by BPA's realty department.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping
Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4

Date: March 6, 2017