

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY17 Wood Pole Replacements– Spokane District

Project No. (if applicable): 3522

Project Manager: Gary Beck

Location: Stevens and Spokane counties, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform in-kind replacement of 30 wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g., cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along several transmission lines. Replacement poles would be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-augered to assure proper depth placement. Minor maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings is scheduled to be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of waterbars and drain dips. Refer to the table below for project locations.

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS Info	County, State
Addy-Cusick No. 1	2/8	T33N R39E SEC24	Stevens, WA
	9/3	T33N R40E SEC23	Stevens, WA
	11/8	T33N R41E SEC20	Stevens, WA
Bell-Addy No. 1	1/1, 1/2, 1/8	T26N R43E SEC16	Spokane, WA
Bell-Boundary No. 3	6/8	T27N R43E SEC20	Spokane, WA
	16/9	T28N R42E SEC10	Spokane, WA
	69/1	T36N R39E SEC36	Stevens, WA
	71/5	T36N R40E SEC20	Stevens, WA
Bell-Trentwood No 1	4/1, 4/2	T26N R43E SEC14	Spokane, WA
	5/3	T26N R43E SEC13	Spokane, WA
	10/8, 11/2, 11/3, 11/6	T26N R44E SEC35	Spokane, WA
	12/6	T25N R44E SEC2	Spokane, WA
Bell-Trentwood No. 2	1/3	T26N R43E SEC16	Spokane, WA
	5/5	T26N R43E SEC13	Spokane, WA
	5/8	T26N R44E SEC18	Spokane, WA
	7/1	T26N R44E SEC20	Spokane, WA
	8/7	T26N R44E SEC28	Spokane, WA
	11/1	T26N R44E SEC35	Spokane, WA

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would 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/ Michael A. Rosales

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 16, 2017

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: FY17 Wood Pole Replacement – Spokane District

Project Site Description

Proposed routine maintenance activities would be conducted along the Addy-Cusick No. 1, Bell-Addy No. 1, Bell-Boundary No. 3, and Bell-Trentwood No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines. All proposed activities would be performed in the existing transmission line right-of-ways and access road easements which are located in rural, non-developed areas and/or in rural, agricultural areas.

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cultural survey was performed at all wood pole replacement locations, associated landings, and proposed road improvement locations. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by the undertaking. WA DAHP concurred with BPA's No Adverse Effect determination for all proposed transmission line maintenance activities. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed would be limited to the existing road prism. Landing construction, if needed, would be limited to an area not to exceed 20-feet wide by 60-feet long at each structure proposed for replacement. In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the appropriate State SHPO office, BPA archaeologist, and the environmental project lead would be notified. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacements, landing improvements, and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal/state special-status plants present.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal/state special-status species present.</p>		

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

Explanation: Listed and resident fish species may inhabit streams that are within ½-mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed and resident fish species; therefore, there would be “No Effect” to listed fish species or aquatic habitat.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: At locations adjacent to wetlands, erosion control devices would be utilized to prevent sedimentation of wetlands during proposed project activities; therefore, there would be a “No Effect” on wetland habitat.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be 12 feet below ground surface.

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

Explanation: No change in land use. No specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right of ways. Replacement of wood poles and associated components would be in-kind and replaced in the same location.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emission from construction activity.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

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: BPA Realty personnel would perform landowner notifications 30-days prior to project initiation, and any concerns regarding proposed transmission line maintenance activities would be addressed.

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

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales
Michael A. Rosales, EPR-Bell-1
Physical Scientist - Environment

Date: March 16, 2017