

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Eugene District, North Bend TLM, 2017 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project No.: 3725

Project Manager: Sarah Hall - TEP-TPP-1

Location: Douglas and Coos counties, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to replace a total of 15 deteriorating wood-pole structures and associated hardware and guy wires along the Reedsport Fairview transmission line within the North Bend Transmission Line Maintenance District in Douglas and Coos counties, Oregon. For all structures, the work will include removing the existing wood pole structures (including guy wires if present) and replacing them with in-kind structures in the same location. One structure (20/4) will be removed completely.

Access road and landing surface improvements may need to be made to get equipment to the work site. Dependent on the structure location and access road conditions, the project may include minor blading and rocking to provide a stable work location near the structures and potentially in-kind replacements or general maintenance of existing drainage features.

The following table contains the structure names and locations for this project.

Transmission Line	County	Township/Range/Section	Structure #	Land Use
Reedsport-Fairview #1	Douglas	T 22S R 12W Sec 4	2/1	Commercial Forestry
		T 22S R 12W Sec 19	5/3, 5/6	
		T 22S R 12W Sec 30	6/1	
Reedsport-Fairview #1	Coos	T 23S R 12W Sec 18	10/2	Residential
		T 24S R 13W Sec 1	14/4	Commercial Forestry
		T 24S R 12W Sec 18	17/2	
		T 24S R 12W Sec 20	18/5	
		T 24S R 12W Sec 32	20/3	

		T 25S R 12W Sec 5	20/4, 20/5, 21/1, 21/3	Commercial Forestry
		T 25S R 12W Sec 20	23/6	
		T 26S R 12W Sec 30	33/1	

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/ PhilipW. Smith FOR
Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: July 14, 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: Eugene District, North Bend TLM, 2017 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project Site Description

The project areas are rural residential, agricultural, and commercial forestry land use areas. The sites are within existing transmission line rights-of-way and have been previously disturbed by routine vegetation and construction maintenance.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project APE's. Oregon SHPO was sent results of the surveys and reports on April 21, 2017. Response from Oregon SHPO occurred on May 10, 2017, with request for clarification of several items. A response was sent to Oregon SHPO on May 23, 2017, and concurrence was received on July 12, 2017. Based on communications with Oregon SHPO and affected tribes, a determination of 'no adverse effect to historic properties' has been made.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is in a previously disturbed right-of-way within the existing transmission line corridor, surrounded by commercial forestry and other agricultural lands. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Where appropriate, storm water BMP's would be used during the project to protect surrounding areas from erosion potential. No prime or unique farmlands will be negatively affected by project activities.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No identified listed species (federal and state) are present at or adjacent to the project sites. Work would occur in areas maintained as open transmission line corridor; no vegetation is planned for removal.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federally-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat present at or adjacent to the project area.</p>		

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



Explanation: Several of the structure sites are located adjacent to rivers and creeks. Appropriate storm water BMP's would be used during the project to protect surrounding areas from erosion potential. No in-water work is anticipated or authorized for any of the project sites. No FEMA-mapped floodplains are identified within project work locations.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are identified within or adjacent to any of the project work sites. BMP's employed in #5 above would minimize or prevent any potential runoff that could compromise water quality.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater. Disturbance from the project work would be physical in nature with no potential contaminants other than vehicular fluids that could possibly leak on-site. Spill kits will be in every vehicle and piece of work equipment present at all work locations.

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



Explanation: The project will not alter the appearance or function of lands at the work sites and will maintain existing access roads for private, agricultural property owners and BPA. The project does not include and special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed actions at existing facilities and work sites would not alter or affect visual quality. All pole replacements will be in-kind and utilize similar structure designs.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Work activities for this project are maintenance-level in nature and should be completed in a short time period with minimal crews and machinery, resulting in exhaust fumes and potentially dust during dry periods. Dust control measures will be used if necessary.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise will occur from work activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions exist at identified work sites. A site-specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis will be developed and approved by BPA prior to work commencing. Daily job briefings will occur prior to work initiation each day to assure an overview of all potential hazards involved for that work day.

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: Project notifications via mailed letters were sent to all current landowners. The letter provided BPA contact information to allow feedback from landowners concerning the proposed work activities.

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

Signed: /s/ PhilipW. Smith FOR
Benjamin J. Tilley, EP-Alvey

Date: July 14, 2017