

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: City of Centralia—Salzer Valley Tap

Project No.: L0394

Project Manager: Amanda Williams—TEP-TPP-1

Location: Lewis County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to approve the City of Centralia's line and load interconnection request to BPA's Chehalis-Centralia No. 1 69 kV line, north of Salzer Valley Road. The purpose of the City of Centralia's proposed project would be to serve the southeast section of their service territory.

The City of Centralia would add two taps near wood poles 9/10 and 9/11, on which BPA would install two line sectionalizing switches. The City of Centralia would own, operate and maintain their tap structures.

To accommodate the new taps, BPA proposes to relocate wood pole 9/10 approximately 60-ft north, and wood pole 9/11 approximately 30-ft south of the existing locations. The existing wood poles would be removed and replaced. The new poles would be H-frame structures, with guy wires.

Land would be graded for the new structures and three new landings would be installed in between, and near, the relocated structures. The existing access road would be extended and a new spur would be added, totaling approximately 250 linear feet. The existing access road would be improved by grading and adding gravel. The existing gate would be removed and reinstalled 25 feet north of its previous location. Approximately 3,745 cubic yards of soil would be cut and filled for this project.

During the site reconnaissance, it was determined that approximately 28 trees near the east side of the right-of-way would need to be removed to maintain a safe clearance from the transmission lines. The majority of these trees are Douglas-firs, and are approximately 40-years old. The trees are an average of 62-feet tall and approximately 12 inches in diameter.

Staging of project materials and construction equipment would be located in a graveled parking area, at the junction between Salzer Valley Road and Centralia Alpha Road.

In addition to the work along the line, a BPA meter would be installed at the City of Centralia's new Salzer Valley Substation.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 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.

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Project Site Description

The project location is in Lewis County, Washington, along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Chehalis-Centralia transmission line 1, mile 9, towers 10 & 11. The line is located in Section 15, Township 14 North, Range 2 West. The site is located in a right-of-way easement, just north of Salzer Valley Road. The project area is approximately 0.5 acres in size.

The vegetation at the site consists of snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), hawthorne (*Crataegus* sp.), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and blackberries (*Rubus* spp.).

A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies at the site.

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"/>

Explanation: BPA initiated Section 106 consultation on September 15, 2016, with The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

The BPA archaeologist determined that this project is unlikely to have any adverse effects to historical or cultural resources. On March 10, 2017, the Section 106 report was sent to The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and DAHP. DAHP concurred with the determination on March 13, 2017.

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe responded on April 18, 2017, and requested that an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be attached to the construction permit. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation did not respond to notifications sent on September 15, 2016, and March 10, 2017.

In the event of an inadvertent archaeological discovery, all construction work would cease until the BPA archaeologist and other appropriate parties are notified and suitable action is taken.

2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Soils would be excavated and graded to relocate the existing poles and to add the three landings. The maximum depth of soil disturbance would be ten feet where the new poles are set. A total of 3,780 cubic yards of soil would be cut and 35 cubic yards of that would be used for fill. The remaining soil would be removed and deposited onto a pre-approved graveled location at the BPA Chehalis Maintenance Headquarters.

Best management practices (BMPs) that meet the standards of the Washington State Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington would be utilized to avoid erosion and sedimentation

during and after construction.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)



Explanation: No special-status plant species or habitat present. The project area consists mainly of native and non-native forbs. The right-of-way corridor is routinely mowed and managed to deter shrub and tree growth.

Approximately 28 Douglas-fir trees would be removed for this project to maintain a safe distance between vegetation and the transmission lines. These trees are approximately 40 years old and are not federal/state special-status species.

The following requirements would reduce the potential of introducing or transporting noxious weeds to the site:

- Utilize certified weed-free sources of hay, straw, and gravel at the site.
- Wash vehicles and equipment before and after project. Vehicles/equipment should be washed before dispatching to other locations.
- Revegetate the project area with a locally native seed mix, where applicable.

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



Explanation: No special-status wildlife species or habitat present. The project would have no impacts to special-status species.

The following requirements would reduce the potential of harming wildlife:

- Remove trees between September 1 and March 1, to avoid the typical nesting period for migratory birds.
- Cover excavated holes left overnight and on the weekends, to ensure that no animals are hurt or trapped inside holes.

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



Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains or listed fish species. The nearest stream, Salzer Creek, is approximately 0.20 miles to the south.

BMPs that meet the standards of the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington would be utilized to avoid erosion and sedimentation during and after construction.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project area is in an upland habitat and does not exhibit wetland characteristics. A wetland complex is located approximately 335-ft to the south of the project area; however, this wetland has mostly been converted to agricultural land. The wetland complex and project location are separated by Salzer Valley Road. There would be no impacts to this wetland.

The staging area has a small drainage ditch along the southern edge. Straw wattles would be used around the perimeter to prevent soils, chemicals, and other materials from entering the drainage.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project is unlikely to impact groundwater or aquifers, as maximum depth of disturbance would be 10 feet. The nearest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Sole Source Aquifer is approximately 25 miles northeast of the project location.

The following BMPs would be employed to reduce the potential for contamination of groundwater and aquifers:

- Train construction workers on preventing contamination of soil, water and atmosphere.
- Provide instructions on cleanup and reporting inadvertent spills.

- Locate spill containment and cleanup materials on-site during construction.
- Designate refueling locations for vehicles and equipment away from waterways.
- Provide pumps, funnels, absorbent pads, and drip pans for refueling vehicles and equipment.

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



Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location. Whenever possible, disturbed areas would be returned to their present use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The relocation of the two H-frame towers would not change the existing visual quality of the area. The tower relocation and tap installations would be visually congruent with the existing utility right-of-way.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A temporary and small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The nearest residence is approximately 200 feet from the project location. Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The project would have a low probability of affecting human health and safety. As a precautionary procedure, a site-specific Safety Plan, including a Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan, would be prepared before construction begins. This plan would specify how to manage hazardous materials, such as fuel and toxic materials found in the work site. A Spill Prevention and Control Plan would also be implemented; and refueling and chemical storage locations would be in a designated area. The construction team would have spill containment and cleanup supplies onsite.

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 BPA realty specialist and the City of Centralia would work with the underlying landowner to obtain the necessary easement rights to perform the work.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger—ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: July 6, 2017