

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Franklin-Badger Canyon #2, McNary-Roundup #1, Roundup-La Grande #1, and White Bluffs-Richland #1 Wood Pole Replacement

PP&A No.: 3611

Project Manager: Todd Wehner

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon and Benton County, 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 replace deteriorating wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) on the Franklin-Badger Canyon #2, McNary-Roundup #1, Roundup-La Grande #1, and White Bluffs-Richland #1 transmission lines.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Franklin-Badger Canyon #2	8/3	8N	29E	12	Benton, WA
	11/2	8N	29E	9	
McNary-Roundup #1	32/4	2N	31E	23	Umatilla, OR
Roundup-La Grande #1	8/1	2N	34E	31	Umatilla, OR
White Bluffs-Richland #1	12/2	9N	28E	15	Benton, WA

Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

Structures being replaced are in easements on privately-owned property, except Roundup-La Grande structure 8/1, which is located on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. These structures are located within or adjacent to residential properties, pastures, dry land wheat farming, or similar type land uses.

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. All work will 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/ Shawn L. Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 5, 2017

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist

cc: (w/ enclosures)
Wilfong, Greg – TFPF-PASCO

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: Franklin-Badger Canyon #2, McNary-Roundup #1, Roundup-La Grande #1, and White Bluffs-Richland #1 Wood Pole Replacement

Project Site Description

These structures are located within or adjacent to residential properties, pastures, dry land wheat farming, or similar type land uses. Roundup-La Grande 8/1 is located on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

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> WA DAHP concurrence on no adverse effect determination received March 13, 2017. OR SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination received May 24, 2017. The Nez Perce, CTUIR, Wanapum and Yakama Tribes were consulted— CTUIR responded and asked for an archaeological monitor for all ground-disturbing activities at structure 8/1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured, and SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. • Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. • Limit access road maintenance to the existing road prism. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (two 100x100 foot areas); erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. Area of disturbance is frequently disturbed by agricultural operations.</p>		

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

Explanation: No special-status species or designated habitat present. Area is previously disturbed by agriculture and road development.

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

Explanation: No water bodies present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site. Maximum depth of ground disturbance would be 8 feet.

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

Explanation: Temporary agricultural impacts during construction; landowners will be compensated for crop damage, as needed.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: New wood-poles would not be noticeably different than existing poles.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Temporary and small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust will be of minor concern due to the timing of construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.

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:

Coordination with property owners has occurred, including Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. No concerns.

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

Signed: */s/ Shawn Barndt*
Shawn L. Barndt/EPR-Tri Cities RMHQ

Date: *June 5, 2017*