

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Olympia District, Chehalis TLM, 2017 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project Manager: Jim Semrau, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Cowlitz, Lewis, and Pacific counties, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace a total of about 36 deteriorating wood-pole structures and associated hardware and guys along eight different transmission lines in BPA's Olympia District, Chehalis TLM areas. For all structures, the work will include removing the existing wood-pole structures (and guy wires if present) and replacing them with in-kind structures in the same location.

Where needed, the project also includes improvements to existing access roads and landings associated with the above-mentioned transmission line rights-of-way that currently inhibit access at the specified locations for routine maintenance. Dependent on the structure location and access road conditions, the project may include surface improvements of existing road surfaces and landings (blading & rocking) as well as improvements and in-kind replacements of existing drainage features.

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

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Chehalis-Centralia No. 2	14/15	14N	2W	6	Industrial
Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1	3/3	13N	2W	33	Rural Residential
	3/4	13N	2W	34	Rural Residential
	6/2,6/3, 6/4	13N	2W	36	Rural Residential
	14/2	13N	1E	32	Rural Residential
	14/9, 15/3	13N	1E	33	Rural Residential
	16/2, 16/5	13N	1E	34	Rural Residential
Chehalis-Olympia No. 1	2/5	13N	2W	17	Rural Residential
	10/1	14N	3W	11	Private Timber
	10/10	14N	3W	2	Agricultural
	14/1	15N	3W	26	Agricultural
	16/6	15N	3W	11	Industrial
Chehalis-Raymond No. 1	28/7	12N	7W	1	Private Timber
	39/9	14N	8W	37	Private Timber
	45/12	14N	9W	12	Industrial
Lexington-Longview No. 1	8/4	8N	3W	25	Rural Residential
Mossyrock-Chehalis No. 1	8/8	13N	2E	32	Rural Residential
	14/6	13N	1E	32	Rural Residential
Naselle-Tarlett No. 1	2/6, 2/7, 2/8, 2/9, 3/1, 3/3	11N	9W	31	Agricultural
	16/10	10N	11W	10	USFWS

Naselle-Tarlett No. 2	2/7, 2/8, 2/9, 2/10, 3/1	11N	9W	31	Agricultural
	8/3, 8/5	11N	10W	28	Private Timber

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/ Phil Smith for
 Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia
 Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: May 25, 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.

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Project Site Description

All work would be done in existing managed rights-of-way that cross BPA fee owned, private agricultural, private industrial, private timber, and rural residential lands.

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> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project APEs. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. Washington DAHP agreed with an effects determination from the survey report on 4/07/17, Log No.: 2017-01-00151-BPA. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Where appropriate, storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. Structure 14/15 of the Chehalis-Centralia No. 2 is located within a seasonally wet area. To protect the sensitive area, swamp mats would be placed to access the structure location.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor; no vegetation would be removed and no special-status species are present. At the Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, 14/15 structure location, less than 1/10 of an acre of facultative vegetation may be temporarily compacted by the placement of swamp mats. No long-term effects are anticipated.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor with little wildlife habitat; no mapped special-status species are known to be present. Structure 28/7 of the Chehalis-Raymond No. 1 is located within listed Marbled Murrelet critical habitat. No work will occur at this location until after September 15th, the end of the late breeding season. Additionally, no trees will be removed as part of this project. Through the adherence with the timing restriction and the habitat conservation measure this project will not affect Marbled Murrelet critical habitat.</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 sloughs. Appropriate storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding areas from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. No in water work is authorized for any of the project sites. No FEMA-mapped floodplains are mapped within the project site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Structure 14/15 of the Chehalis-Centralia No. 2 is located within a mapped wetland. Less than 1/10 of an acre will be impacted with the use of temporary fill, swamp mats. The mats would be used to cross the saturated soils and protect the sensitive area. This action is considered a maintenance exemption and thus, no Federal permits are required. Swamp mats are anticipated to be in place for approximately 1 day.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. All spills would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The project locations are confined to the existing transmission line ROW corridors. Surrounding land uses include BPA fee owned, private agricultural, private industrial, private timber, and rural residential properties. Project locations do not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities would not alter or effect visual quality. Structure replacements are in-kind and would not be visibly different from the existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance would be limited to general construction equipment activities, would be for a short duration, and would occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known. Completion of this project would increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

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: Notifications via mailed letters will be sent to all current landowners approximately 3-8 weeks prior to project initiation. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners concerning the proposed work.

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

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith for
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: May 25, 2017