

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 and Aberdeen Tap to Satsop Park-Cosmopolis No. 1 Access Road Maintenance

**PP&A No.:** 3634

**Project Manager:** Richard Ross – Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** Grays Harbor County, Washington

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
17N	08W	6	Grays Harbor County, WA	PRIVATE
17N	08W	7	Grays Harbor County, WA	PRIVATE
17N	09W	5	Grays Harbor County, WA	PRIVATE
17N	09W	12	Grays Harbor County, WA	PRIVATE

**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 routine maintenance along the access roads and structure spur roads between structures 20/2 and 20/3 on the Satsop-Aberdeen No.2 line and between structures 9/1 and 9/4 and at 8/3 of the Aberdeen Tap to Satsop Park-Cosmopolis No. 1 transmission line. Access road work would include: adding two cross-drain culverts; eight waterbars; one drain dip; 325 linear feet of V ditch; 225 linear feet of rock-lined trapezoidal ditch; one heavy duty gate; performing minor blading, shaping, grading and adding rock (improvements) to approx. 1.3 miles of existing serviceable access and structure spur roads; reconstructing approx. 225 feet of road; and constructing two landings totaling 3,400 square feet. General equipment used for this type of project includes mowers, graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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/ Kevin George  
Kevin George – EPI-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: May 12, 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:** Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 and Aberdeen Tap to Satsop Park-Cosmopolis No. 1  
Access Road Maintenance

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### Project Site Description

Proposed maintenance activities are located in two areas: (1) between structures 20/2 and 20/3 on the Satsop-Aberdeen No.2 line, just north of the Broadway Heights suburbs of Aberdeen, WA; and (2) between 9/1 to 9/4 and at 8/3 of the Aberdeen Tap to Satsop Park-Cosmopolis No. 1 transmission line, approximately 4 miles east of Aberdeen, WA. There are no National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands or mapped hydric soil units that intersect the project area – the nearest mapped wetland is mapped 530 feet south of the project area. Elevation (above mean sea level) within the project area ranges from approximately 20 to 520 feet. The project area is privately owned and includes natural land cover. Land use in the surrounding area includes forestland, agriculture, and scattered suburban and rural development.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources review was conducted in the Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 project area in 2007 by Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA), and no cultural resources were found. The Aberdeen Tap to Satsop Park-Cosmopolis No. 1 project area has never been surveyed. Based on the steep topography, the distance from the river coupled with the existing survey results, the probability for subsurface deposits is extremely low. There are sites in within a two-mile range of the project, but within a different landform. This project area is also upland, in rugged terrain, and likely has a low probability for subsurface deposits. As such, BPA has determined the undertaking does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager, interested tribes, DAHP, and the appropriate local, state and federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within the existing road prisms and at new landing installations. Minimal soil disturbance is proposed; any soil cut from the landing locations would be sidecast in thin layers so growth of existing vegetation would not be inhibited. Excess soils shall not be sidecast into wetlands, drainage ditches, or water bodies. Erosion control measures would be used. Stabilization would include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch.</p>		

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

Explanation: No mapped special-status species present; road improvements would be limited to the existing road prism and to the new landings. No trees will be removed for this project. Disturbed areas outside roadbeds and landings will be vegetatively stabilized.

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

Explanation: No special-status species or designated habitat present; existing road prism and surrounding area under transmission line is low-quality habitat.

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

Explanation: No stream culvert replacement, installation, or cleaning would occur. Two cross-drain culverts will be installed at locations where no mapped streams exist.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: There are no National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands or mapped hydric soil units that overlap road maintenance activities.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Groundwater would not be affected by proposed road improvement activities; no new groundwater wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would not exceed existing road fill.

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

Explanation: All proposed road improvements would occur within the footprints of the existing roads or transmission line and are consistent with existing land use; no specially designated areas are located within the project area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: All improvements will be at ground level and are limited to existing road prisms and the area immediately surrounding the transmission lines.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected for a short duration due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary noise is expected for a short duration from road improvement activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields would result from the project.

### **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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The project is located entirely on private land. Notification letters that construction would occur would be sent to all landowners prior to work.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George  
Kevin George – EPI-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist)

Date: May 12, 2017