

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY17 Wood Pole Replacements – Grand Coulee TLM

Project No. (if applicable): 3523

Project Manager: Todd Wehner

Location: Douglas, Okanogan, and Ferry Counties, 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 perform in-kind replacement of 87 wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along several transmission lines. Replacement poles will be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-augered to assure proper depth placement. Minor maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings is scheduled to be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of waterbars and drain dips. Refer to the table below for project locations.

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS Info	County, State
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1	2/5	T29N R30E SEC34	Douglas, WA
	5/6	T29N R 30E SEC29	
	9/1, 9/2, 9/5, 9/7, 9/8	T29N R29E SEC27	
	10/4, 10/5	T29N R29E SEC28	
	11/2, 11/3	T29N R29E SEC29	
	12/2	T29N R29E SEC19	
	13/2, 13/5	T29N R28E SEC24	
	14/3, 15/2	T29N R28E SEC23	
	15/7, 16/1, 16/3	T29N R28E SEC22	
	16/7, 17/3	T29N R28E SEC21	
	17/9, 18/1	T29N R28E SEC20	
	18/5, 18/9	T29N R28E SEC19	
	19/4, 19/5, 19/8	T29N R27E SEC24	
	20/4, 20/7	T29N R27E SEC23	
	21/4, 21/5, 22/2	T29N R27E SEC22	
	22/3, 22/5	T29N R27E SEC21	
	23/5	T29N R27E SEC20	
	24/7, 24/9, 25/1, 25/3	T29N R27E SEC19	
	26/3	T29N R26E SEC25	
27/7	T29N R26E SEC27		
29/6	T29N R26E SEC28		

Transmission Line	Structures	TRS Info	County, State
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2	15/6	T29N R28E SEC22	Douglas, WA
	16/6	T29N R28E SEC21	
	22/5	T29N R27E SEC21	
	25/2	T29N R27E SEC19	
	31/3	T29N R26E SEC30	
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	3/2	T29N R30E SEC34	Douglas, WA
	3/6	T29N R30E SEC33	
	4/9	T29N R30E SEC28	
	5/3, 5/5, 5/6, 5/7	T29N R30E SEC29	
	9/4	T29N R29E SEC27	
	12/6, 12/7	T29N R29E SEC19	
	13/2, 13/4, 13/7	T29N R28E SEC24	
	16/8, 17/3	T29N R28E SEC21	
	26/3	T29N R28E SEC25	
	28/9	T29N R26E SEC28	
33/5, 33/6, 33/7	T29N R25E SEC26		
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	20/7, 21/6	T31N R28E SEC33	Okanogan, WA
	25/8	T31N R27E SEC13	
	26/5	T31N R27E SEC11	
Keller Tap	5/2	T29N R31E SEC32	Okanogan, WA
	7/8	T29N R31E SEC27	
	8/10	T29N R31E SEC26	
	12/8	T29N R32E SEC17	Ferry, WA
	18/5, 19/2	T30N R32E SEC25	
	19/5, 19/6, 19/7, 19/8, 19/9, 19/10, 20/1, 20/2	T30N R33E SEC30	
	20/5	T30N R33E SEC29	

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines which will 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/ Michael A. Rosales

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 6, 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: FY17 Wood Pole Replacement – Grand Coulee TLM

Project Site Description

Proposed routine maintenance activities will be conducted along the Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1 and No. 2, Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1, Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2 and Keller Tap transmission lines. All proposed activities will be performed in the existing transmission line right-of-ways and access road easements which are located in rural, non-developed areas and/or in rural, agricultural areas.

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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cultural survey was performed at all wood pole replacement locations, associated landings, and proposed road improvement locations. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by the undertaking. WA DAHP concurred with BPA's No Adverse Effect determination with the stipulation for site avoidance at several structure locations: • Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. • Landing construction, if needed, will be limited to an area not to exceed 20-feet wide by 60-feet long at each structure proposed for replacement. • In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the appropriate State SHPO office, BPA archaeologist, and the environmental project lead will be notified. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacements, landing improvements and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control measures will be utilized as necessary.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal/state special-status plants present.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal/state special-status species present.</p>		

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

Explanation: Listed fish species may inhabit streams that are within ½-mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species; therefore, there will be “No Effect” to listed fish species or aquatic habitat.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No activities would occur in wetlands. At locations adjacent to wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent potential sedimentation into wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be 12 feet below ground surface.

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

Explanation: No change in land use. No specially designated areas present.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: All work will be performed within existing transmission line right of ways. Replacement of wood poles and associated components will be in-kind and replaced in the same location.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emission from construction activity.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

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: BPA Realty personnel will perform landowner notifications 30-days prior to project initiation and any concerns regarding proposed transmission line maintenance activities will be addressed.

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

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales
Michael A. Rosales, EPR-Bell-1
Physical Scientist - Environment

Date: September 6, 2017