

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Paul-Allston #2 500kV Urgent Impairment Correction Structure 11/2

PP&A No.:

Project Manager: Mark Korsness, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Lewis County, WA

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to correct one area along the Paul-Allston transmission line where the ground to conductor distance has been determined to be insufficient with current electrical safety standards, referred to as an impairment. This correction would be made by building a new structure 11/2 75 feet back on line and raising the height of structure 11/2 by 12.5 feet.

Raising and moving structure 11/2 would be accomplished with heavy equipment, cranes, boom trucks, and an excavator. A combination of cranes and boom trucks (pole or bucket) may be used at each work location to facilitate the work. Structure 11/2 would be cut off just below ground level. For the location where the structure is being relocated, new holes would be dug to the appropriate depth to accommodate the increased height and weight of structure 11/2. All excavation would be completed with an excavator.

At both the current and new structure 11/2 locations, ground mats or crushed rock would be placed to develop vehicle work landings. The landings would be developed to the minimal size necessary to safely accommodate the required work vehicles. All other work locations have currently serviceable vehicle access. The disturbance area for the relocations of structure 11/2 would be approximately 0.1 acres.

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Paul-Allston No. 2	11/2	13N	2W	10	BPA Fee-Owned

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/ Jonnel Deacon

Jonnel Deacon - EPR-4

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 15, 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

The 11/2 work area occurs entirely on BPA fee-owned land within the Port of Chehalis. The area is level and is comprised of industrial buildings, paved lots, paved outdoor storage areas, paved roads, and grassy areas. Dillenbaugh Creek meanders approximately 500 feet to the north of the proposed work area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation were completed for the project APE. No resources were identified in the immediate vicinity of the proposed work areas. However, two sites are located in the surrounding area. For that reason, an archaeological monitor shall be onsite during ground-disturbing activities. Washington DAHP agreed with a no effects determination from a survey report on 07/11/17, Log No.: 2017-07-04856-BPA. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.</p>		
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Work is tentatively scheduled for late summer. Stormwater BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.</p>		
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor. The entire property, including the right-of-way and area to be disturbed, is used for haying on an annual basis. No special-status species are present. A survey conducted on 06/09/2017 by BPA employees confirmed this.</p>		
<p>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p>	<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 or designated habitats are present. A survey conducted on 06/09/2017 by BPA employees confirmed this.</p>		
<p>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Structure 11/2 is currently located 600 feet south of Dillenbaugh Creek. The proposed relocation</p>		

would move structure 11/2 75 feet closer to Dillenbaugh Creek. The creek is fish bearing, but does not support ESA-listed fish. There would be no in-water work required. Appropriate storm-water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the creek from runoff or erosion. Work areas would be stabilized upon completion of project activities and reseeded. A no effect determination addressing ESA-listed aquatic species and essential fish habitat was completed for the project.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: A wetlands study was conducted in March 2017 by Environmental Design, LLC of Centralia, WA at the request of the Port of Chehalis. No wetlands occur at or within the area of influence of the work sites.

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. Any 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 within existing transmission line rights-of-way and would not change existing land uses. Project locations do not include any specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Although structure 11/2 would be relocated 75 feet to the north and raised 12.5 feet, the overall visual change would be consistent with the existing transmission line use in the area.

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 inside the Port of Chehalis and 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 as well as correct the current impairment.

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: A portion of the project is located on BPA fee-owned land. For the other lands associated with the project, notifications via mailed letters have been sent to current landowners. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners/managers concerning the proposed project.

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

Signed: /s/ *Jonnel Deacon*
Jonnel Deacon – EPR-4
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: *August 15, 2017*