

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** FY18 Pasco District Wood Pole Replacements

**PP&A No.:** 3808

**Project Manager:** Todd Wehner

**Location:** Umatilla and Union counties, Oregon; Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla 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 replace deteriorating wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) on 18 different transmission lines in the Pasco district.

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

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Badger Canyon-Richland #1	3/4	9N	28E	36	Benton, WA
	5/4, 5/8, 6/2	9N	28E	22	
Benton-451B #1	2/1	11N	28E	10	Benton, WA
Benton-Scootenev #1	9/5	12N	29E	24	Franklin, WA
	13/3, 13/7	13N	30E	32	
Benton-White Bluffs #1	2/2	11N	28E	14	Benton, WA
	3/4	11N	28E	23	
	3/11	11N	28E	26	
Etopia Tap to Smith Canyon-Redd	1/3	11N	31E	20	Franklin, WA
Franklin-Badger Canyon #1	1/2	9N	30E	27	Franklin, WA
Franklin-Badger Canyon #2	1/3	9N	30E	27	Franklin, WA
	1/4	9N	30E	34	
Franklin-Hedges #1	1/4	9N	30E	27	Franklin, WA
	1/5	9N	30E	34	
Franklin-Walla Walla #1	34/7	7N	35E	17	Walla Walla, WA
McNary-Badger Canyon #1	1/1	5N	28E	16	Umatilla, OR
McNary-Franklin #2	5/3	6N	28E	34	Benton, WA
	7/7, 7/8	6N	28E	23	
	12/1, 12/3	7N	29E	31	

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
	15/6	7N	29E	16	
	16/1	7N	29E	15	
	19/4	8N	29E	36	
	20/7	8N	30E	30	
McNary-Roundup #1	2/2	5N	28E	16	Umatilla, OR
	9/1	4N	29E	7	
	12/3	4N	29E	28	
	27/5, 27/6	2N	30E	13	
	40/3	2N	32E	24	
Red Mountain-Richland #1	5/5	9N	28E	17	Benton, WA
Red Mountain-White Bluffs #1	3/5	10N	27E	35	Benton, WA
Roundup-La Grande #1	2/5	2N	33E	20	Umatilla, OR
	39/7	3S	37E	8	Union, OR
	44/6	3S	38E	7	
Scootenev Tap to Midway-Benton #1	28/9	14N	30E	35	Franklin, WA
Walla Walla-Pendleton #1	28/9	4N	33E	26	Umatilla, OR
	29/10	4N	33E	35	
	32/2	3N	33E	11	
	35/5	3N	33E	21	
	36/7	3N	33E	29	
White Bluffs-Richland #1	11/2, 11/6	9N	28E	10	Benton, WA

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

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

Structures being replaced are in easements on privately-owned property; and DNR, BLM and DOE-Hanford property, except Roundup-La Grande structure 2/5, 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 would 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: October 24, 2017

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist

ecc: (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:** FY18 Pasco District Wood Pole Replacements

### 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 2/5 is located on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Benton-451B 2/1 and Benton-White Bluffs 2/2, 3/4, and 3/11 are located on DOE-Hanford property.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> WA DAHP concurrence on no adverse effect determination received September 25, 2017. OR SHPO did not respond during the 30-day period. The Nez Perce, CTUIR, Wanapum and Yakama Tribes were consulted, but did not respond during the 30-day period. On August 16, 2017, a records search was conducted at CTUIR office for Roundup-La Grande 2/5. The Washington Department of Natural Resources and BLM were also consulted, but neither responded during the 30-day period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area would be secured, and SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.</li> <li>• Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</li> <li>• Limit access road maintenance to the existing road prism.</li> </ul>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<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. <b>Plants</b> (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 10 feet.

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

Explanation: Temporary agricultural impacts during construction; landowners would 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 would 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 and Hanford. 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 L. Barndt  
Shawn L. Barndt/EPR-Tri Cities RMHQ

Date: October 24, 2017