

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 Impairment Removal Project

**Project No.:** 3964

**Project Manager:** Thomas Murphy

**Location:** Yamhill County, OR

Transmission Line ROW	Structure Span	Township	Range	Section	County	Ownership/Land Use
Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1	10/3 and 11/1	3S	4W	26	Yamhill	BPA Fee-owned/Substation

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA has identified a transmission line clearance impairment on the Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 transmission line near the BPA Carlton Substation. At this location, the Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 line is too close to the BPA Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 line. To increase the clearance between the two transmission lines, BPA proposes to install a single pole, and associated features (guy wires, cross-arms, insulators, etc.) between Carlton Substation and structure 11/1 of the Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 line. All project activities would take place on BPA fee-owned property, and would use traditional transmission line equipment (digger-derrick, back hoe, bucket truck, work trucks, etc.).

**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/ Oden Jahn*  
Oden Jahn  
Physical Scientist

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *December 14, 2018*

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:** Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 Impairment Removal Project

### Project Site Description

The project is located on BPA fee-owned land adjacent to the BPA Carlton Substation. Much of the project area has been previously disturbed and the vegetation consists of tall grasses, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, including noxious weeds.

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Explanation:</b> A cultural resources survey was conducted of the project APE, including a pedestrian survey and the excavation of a shovel test probe in the location of the proposed structure. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. Parts of the project APE have been previously surveyed twice (Brannan and Schmidt 2008 and Perkins 2018), and no cultural resources were identified during those surveys. The APE is within an area that has been heavily disturbed by substation and utility construction and maintenance. BPA has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that this project would have no effect on historic properties, per 36 CFR 800.4 (d)(1).</li> <li>▪ <b>Notes:</b> BPA’s Inadvertent Discovery Plan must be available on-site at all times during project activities. 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; Oregon SHPO; 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.</li> </ul>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> After work is completed, soils would be stabilized using BMP C120 and C121 from the Western Washington Stormwater Manual. Additional BMPs would be implemented as necessary. Soil in the project area is Woodburn silt loam with 0 to 3 percent slopes, and is classified as prime farmland; however, the project area is not used for farming and the project would not affect adjacent properties that share this soil type.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area. All work would occur within a previously disturbed area.</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Streaked Horned Lark has been recorded within a mile of the project area. While the project area does not exhibit habitat conditions preferred by the Streaked Horned Lark, adjacent properties do. BPA proposes</p>		

to conduct the work between September 1 and April 14, which is outside of the breeding season. No potential habitat would be modified.

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

Explanation: There are no waterbodies or flood plains in the project area.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The location of the prop structure is in upland; however, access routes to the project location cross seasonally-inundated swales. BPA would perform the work when there is no water in the swales (late summer/early fall) or use wetland mats, so that construction equipment would not cause rutting.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater.

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

Explanation: No change in land use and no specially-designated areas were identified.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to significantly impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Any fugitive dust generated during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Construction noise from typical utility line equipment would be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

### 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 area is on BPA fee-owned property. The BPA Realty Specialist will coordinate with adjacent landowners prior to work, if necessary.

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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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: December 14, 2018