

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Partial Sale of Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1 Transmission Line

Project No.: OR 2021 128

Project Manager: Jay Largo – TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Marion, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell four spans of the Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1 115 kV single circuit transmission line (including structures 3/21, 3/22, and 3/23) to Salem Electric Company. The proposed project is to sell four spans, three wood pole structures, and associated hardware on the Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1 transmission line that lead into the Salem Alumina Substation. The structures are located on land owned by Salem Electric (Parcel ID #s 073W11DC00102 and 073W11DD01803), however easement rights for those parcels were retained when BPA sold the Salem Alumina Substation to Salem Electric in 1999. No ground-disturbing activities or building modifications would occur with the proposed action.

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, Jul. 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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange August 27, 2021
Katey C. Grange Date
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Partial Sale of Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1 Transmission Line

Project Site Description

The existing four spans, three wood pole structures, and associated hardware of the Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1 transmission line that comprise this proposed project are all located on land owned by Salem Electric (Parcel ID #s 073W11DC00102 and 073W11DD01803). However easement rights for those parcels were retained when BPA sold the Salem Alumina Substation to Salem Electric in 1999. The portion of line is located in Marion County, OR, in a maintained low-growing vegetation area of a parcel surrounded by paved parking lots and urban development. The site is located in Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Section 11.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA historian reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the transfer sale of this section of the Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1 Line would not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur for the transfer sale of the transmission line segment; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur by the sale. No ESA-listed plants are in the Right-of-Way and there would be no effect to ESA listed plants by the transfer sale of the transmission line.

Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The transfer sale of the transmission line segment to Salem Electric would not have ground disturbance and would not affect wildlife.

4. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish by the acquisition.

5. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would no impacts to wetlands by the acquisition.

6. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

7. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to land use or specially-designated areas.

8. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore there would be no impacts to visual quality.

9. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed. There would be no impacts to air quality by the transfer sale of the transmission line segment.

10. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed. There would be no noise impacts beyond occasional vehicle traffic to the site.

11. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to human health and safety by the transfer sale of the transmission line segment to Salem Electric.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA is in coordination with Salem Electric, the underlying landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey August 27, 2021
Christopher H. Furey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist