

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Minidoka Powerhouse Line Cross Arm Replacement Project.

PP&A Project No.: 3899

Project Manager: Mark Hadley -TFIF-Idaho Falls

Location: Cassia County, ID - Bonneville Power Administration's Idaho Falls District

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 cross arms and associated hardware on wood-pole structures of the Minidoka Powerhouse Transmission line. Replacement will utilize the existing poles. A line truck with boom will be required to access the cross arms.

Minor maintenance of landing and access roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required to improve access within the transmission line corridor. No construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, and rocking.

The proposed action 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.

Structure	Township, Range, Section	County	Ownership/Landuse
Powerhouse – 7/1	T09S, R25E, Sec 01, 02, 11, 13, 14, 24, 35, 36	Cassia	BLM/BUR/State/Private Range
7/1 – 12/1	T10S, R25E, Sec 1, 11, 12, 14, 15, 21, 22	Cassia	State/Private/Range/ Agriculture

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/ Fred Walasavage

Fred Walasavage

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 26, 2018

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

Effects Determination for T&E Species

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: Minidoka Powerhouse Line Crossarm Replacement project

Project Site Description

The project activities will be conducted on BPA Transmission line rights of way. The site locations primarily consist of Federal and State lands. The project area is mostly flat and vegetation consists of grasses and steppe shrubs.

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> According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. Cross arms will be replaced in-kind. In addition, the proposed access road work is considered to be routine access road maintenance and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW.</p> <p>In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected. No areas will be disturbed outside of the roadways, landings or 15 feet from the poles</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present within proposed work areas. All work and staging areas will be conducted on existing roads and landings.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or suitable habitat present in project area. The work will entail minimal human disturbance.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> None present in project area.</p>		

6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present in project area.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal ground surface work will have no impact on groundwater or aquifer.		
8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.		
9. Visual Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> New crossarms will be similar to existing structures – no net change in visual appearances. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.		
10. Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.		
11. Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Construction noise will be temporary and localized.		
12. Human Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Project activities will 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.
- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.
- 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.
- 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.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

The BPA TLM foreman will notify landowners as appropriate.

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

Signed: */s/ Fred Walasavage*
Fred Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: *March 26, 2018*