

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: PGE Transmission Line Right-of-Way on BPA Fee-Property

Project No.: LURR 20170407

Project Manager: Jim Clark TERR-Chemawa

Location: Washington County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple Use of Powerline Rights-of-Way

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to grant PGE a pole-line easement across BPA fee-owned property located north of BPA's Keeler Substation and Highway 26 in Washington County, Oregon. The easement would allow PGE to install four 230-kV steel poles as part of its new 230-kV Horizon Transmission Line and would provide PGE operation and maintenance rights on that portion of line on BPA property.

PGE would install the four steel-pole structures, including two dead-end structures—one pole structure would be 3-foot in diameter embedded in the ground; three of the steel poles would require a 6- to 9-foot diameter concrete foundation varying between 25-39 feet deep. The poles would be 50 to 135 feet tall. Three overhead wires (conductor) would be installed on the poles using conductor pulling and tensioning equipment.

To place each pole, an auger drill rig would excavate a hole. Spoils would be stockpiled on the ground near the hole. The pole would be placed in the hole and the remaining void would be backfilled using ¾ inch minus gravel or controlled density fill. Installation of each pole would result in a 50-foot-diameter impact area from vehicle turning, material laydown, and spoils placement.

The project would be accessed using an existing farm road. Equipment would drive through the farm field for temporary access to each individual structure during construction. The farm field would be regraded and returned to its original state after construction is complete. No new access roads would be constructed on BPA fee-property. All work would occur during the dry season when soils are firm and erosion potential is low. PGE would avoid impacts to a wetland that bisects the property.

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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 23, 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.

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Project Site Description

The project area is located North of BPAs Keeler Substation and Highway 26 in Washington County, Oregon. The site is occupied by several existing transmission line structures. The underlying land is active farmland. The surrounding area is well developed. Adjacent land uses include recreational facilities, medium density housing, an Elementary School, and the Highway 26 and NW Cornelius Pass interchange.

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> The Area of Potential Effect has been subjected to multiple archaeological inventories which consisted of both surface and subsurface investigation. None of the surveys identified cultural properties in the area. No further Section 106 review is needed for this project (B. O'Donnchadha, BPA archaeologist, 3/14/18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The contractor shall have a copy of BPAs Inadvertent Discovery Plan on file. The plan will be used to notify the appropriate parties in the event that historic material is identified during construction. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Construction would occur in the dry season when soils are compacted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Install construction silt fence downgradient of soil disturbance areas, particularly at new pole locations. ✓ Install bio bags around catch basins that are downgradient from soil disturbance areas along the project corridor, particularly at new pole locations. ✓ Install bio bags around any downgradient culverts within 20 feet of construction activities. ✓ Cover any loose soil piles that remain for longer than 4 hours. 		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Area is actively managed as farmland. No special-status species present.</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 present.</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.</p>		

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| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> A wetland that bisects the property would be avoided entirely. No temporary access or construction disturbance would impact the wetland. | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impact. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary impacts to agricultural farm use during construction. Land would continue to be used for transmission lines and farm operations. Negligible permanent impact to farmland operations with new pole structure placement. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> New transmission line structures would not be noticeably different from existing and adjacent transmission structures. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary vehicle dust and emissions during construction. | | |
| ✓ Ensure vehicles used for construction are kept clean to prevent tracking of dirt/mud on roadways | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary noise during construction during daytime hours. Negligible increase in operational noise. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impact. | | |

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: BPA owns the property in fee and PGE is working with affected landowners regarding the remainder of their Horizon Transmission line.

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

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory ECT-4

Date: March 23, 2018