

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Longview-Allston No. 3 & 4 Transmission Line Insulator and Conductor Replacement

**PP&A No.:** 3394

**Project Manager:** Todd Wehner – TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** Cowlitz County, Washington & Columbia County, Oregon

**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 insulators and conductor, upgrade some access roads, and install safety fall protection equipment at various locations on the Longview-Allston No. 3 and 4 Transmission lines.

On the **Longview-Allston No. 3** transmission line, insulators—strings of bell shaped ceramic discs—would be replaced along the line from towers 1/1 to 2/2. Using a line truck or helicopter; linemen would access transmission towers and change out insulators.

On the **Longview-Allston No. 4** line, the insulators would be replaced from towers 1/1 to 5/1 and conductor would be replaced from towers 1/1 to 2/2. Replacing conductor is typically performed with line trucks accessing each structure to first disconnect the existing conductor from the insulators and then specialized reeling equipment is used to pull out the old conductor and then pull in the new conductor. Finally, the new conductor would be reattached to new insulators on the transmission towers.

In addition, repairs would be made to approximately 850 linear feet of access roads along the Longview-Allston No. 4 from towers 2/3 to 5/1. Proposed road work would include; blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on new and existing road prisms. In addition to the proposed road improvements, work would include; the installation of four leveled landing areas at the tower structures, three of which would be 60 x 60 feet (ft.) with one being 100 x 100 ft. General equipment used for this type of landing work includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, brush hogs, excavators, and dump trucks.

BPA is also proposing to update fall protection on both the Longview-Allston No. 3 & 4 transmission towers using the MSA Latchways system; a cable safety system that is installed along the climbing path on the tower. The cable is connected to the tower with a series of brackets approximately every 10 feet and a top and bottom anchor. Once installed, workers would use the system when climbing the tower by attaching their harness to a specialized pulley which allows them to glide along the safety cable as they climb. Installation requires a line truck and 2-3 workers in the tower and 1-2 workers on the ground.

Industrial mats would be placed at two locations (structures 1/3 & 1/5) to protect underlying wetlands from potential damage due to use of rubber tired or tracked equipment.

**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/ Laura Roberts*

Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy L. Mason*

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 7, 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:** Longview-Allston No. 3 & 4 Insulator and Conductor Replacement

### Project Site Description

The project is located in western Washington and Oregon and consists of mixed land use including industrial, disturbed low quality wetland, upland forest and agricultural lands.

Line Corridor	Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership
Longview-Allston No. 3 & 4	8N, 3W, Section 25, 26, 36, 38, &39	Cowlitz , WA	BPA and Private
Longview-Allston No. 4	7N, 3W, Section 2,3,10, & 11	Columbia, OR	Private

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA conducted cultural resource field surveys for the proposed project. No cultural resources were identified within the Areas of Potential Effect. BPA sent Letters of Determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project to the corresponding Washington and Oregon SHPO, and to The Cowlitz and Grand Rhonde tribes on May 1, 2018. BPA received one response consisting of Oregon SHPO concurrence on May 3, 2018.</p>		
<p>2. <b>Geology and Soils</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> During construction all appropriate Best Management Practices would be used to implement site specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.</p>		
<p>3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. Work is to be conducted in an existing transmission line Right of Way (ROW). Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded with a geographic and climate appropriate seed mix.</p>		
<p>4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p>		

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



Explanation Special-status fish species found in the Columbia River (Bull Trout, Chinook, chum, coho, and steelhead) would not be impacted by the project. There would be no ground disturbing activities in the Columbia River and no riparian vegetation would be impacted. Erosion control measures would be implemented to prevent sedimentation.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: A freshwater emergent wetland is present between structures 1/4 and 1/5. Industrial mats would be placed at the two locations to protect underlying wetlands from damage due to use of rubber tired or tracked equipment.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures will be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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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/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist (Environmental)

Date: June 7, 2018