

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Toledo-Wendson No. 1 Transmission Line Access Road Maintenance

**PP&A No.:** 2865

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

**Location:** Lincoln and Lane counties, 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 repair approximately 10.5 miles of access road along the first 28 miles of the Toledo-Wendson transmission line. Proposed road work would include; blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on new and existing road prisms to ensure safe access to structures. In addition the proposed road work would include; the replacement of 4 cross-drain culverts, and installation of drainage features such as water bars and drain dips. General equipment used for this type of road maintenance includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, brush hogs, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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/ Sarah T. Biegel*

Sarah Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 18, 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:** Toledo-Wendson No. 1 Transmission Line Access Road Maintenance

### Project Site Description

The project is located along the western Oregon coast and consists primarily of upland forest lands.

Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership
11S,10W, Section 15,16,17,21,28-31	Lincoln, OR	Private
11S, 11W, Section36	Lincoln, OR	Private
12S, 11W, Section 1,2,10,11,15,22,27,34	Lincoln, OR	Private
13S, 11W, Section 3,10,11,14,23,26,34,35	Lincoln, OR	Private & Siuslaw NF
14S, 11W, Section 3,10,15,22,23,25,26,36	Lincoln, OR	Private & Siuslaw NF

### 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> <p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA conducted cultural resource field surveys for the proposed project. No cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. BPA sent Letters of Determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project to Oregon SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Siletz Tribe on July 6, 2017. BPA received one response consisting of Oregon SHPO concurrence on August 3, 2017.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. <b>Geology and Soils</b></p> <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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)</p> <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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Explanation: The project area traverses marbled murrelet critical habitat and highly probable nesting habitat. The proposed project would adhere to timing restrictions and work outside the marbled murrelet nesting season (April 1st-September 23rd), and additionally would not require any tree removal, therefore the project would not impact marbled murrelet. Northern spotted owl and snowy plover would not be impacted by the project

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

Explanation Coho found within the project area would not be impacted. No in-water work is proposed for this project. Additionally, construction Best Management Practices (BMP's) would be implemented throughout the project to ensure localized soil disturbance does not cause sedimentation issues into any waterway

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetland would be impacted by the project.

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 18, 2018