

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 Impairment Removal Project (*Update to previous categorical exclusion issued December 14, 2018*)

**Project No.:** 3964

**Project Manager:** Thomas Murphy

**Location:** Yamhill County, OR

| Transmission Line ROW                    | Structure Span | Township | Range | Section | County  | Ownership/Land Use       |
|--|----------------|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 | 10/3 and 11/1  | 3S       | 4W    | 26      | Yamhill | BPA Fee-owned/Substation |

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA has identified a transmission line clearance impairment on the Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 transmission line near the BPA Carlton Substation. At this location, the Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 line is too close to the BPA Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 line. The CX issued December 14, 2018, proposed to increase the clearance between the two transmission lines by installing a single pole and associated features (guy wires, cross-arms, insulators, etc.) between Carlton Substation and structure 11/1 of the Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 line. BPA now proposes to replace Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 Structure 19/8 with single steel pole that would be ten feet shorter, and located in the same location as the existing pole structure. The new steel pole would be installed within a vertically-buried, four-foot diameter by ten-foot long, corrugated metal culvert. The pole would be bedded in crushed rock and native excavated material within the buried culvert. Excess excavated material would be spread in an upland location on-site and managed with appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs), or hauled off-site to a facility that accepts this material. All project activities would take place on BPA fee-owned property, and would use traditional transmission line equipment (digger-derrick, back hoe, bucket truck, work trucks, etc.).

**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/ Oden Jahn*  
Oden Jahn  
Physical Scientist

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *February 19, 2019*

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:** Cascade Steel Tap to Carlton-Sherwood #1 Impairment Removal Project (*Update to previous categorical exclusion issued December 14, 2018*)

### Project Site Description

The project location has not changed, and is located on BPA fee-owned land adjacent to the BPA Carlton Substation. Much of the project area has been previously disturbed and the vegetation consists of tall grasses, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, including noxious weeds.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

| Environmental Resource Impacts   | No Potential for Significance       | No Potential for Significance, with Conditions |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explanation: The updated work is similar in scope and location to the previously-described work. No additional Section 106 consultation is necessary.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>2. Geology and Soils</b><br><p><u>Explanation:</u> After work is completed, soils would be stabilized using BMP C120 and C121 from the Western Washington Stormwater Manual. Additional BMPs would be implemented as necessary. Soil in the project area is Woodburn silt loam with 0 to 3 percent slopes, and is classified as prime farmland; however, the project area is not used for farming and the project would not affect adjacent properties that share this soil type.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>3. Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)<br><p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area. All work would occur within a previously disturbed area.</p>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| <b>4. Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)<br><p><u>Explanation:</u> Streaked Horned Lark has been recorded within a mile of the project area. While the project area does not exhibit habitat conditions preferred by the Streaked Horned Lark, adjacent properties do. BPA proposes to conduct the work between September 1 and April 14, which is outside of the breeding season. No potential habitat would be modified.</p>                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)<br><p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no waterbodies or flood plains in the project area.</p>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                       |

|   |                                     |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. <b>Wetlands</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The location of the prop structure is in uplands; however, access routes to the project location cross seasonally-inundated swales. BPA would perform the work when there is no water in the swales (late summer/early fall) or use wetland mats, so that construction equipment would not cause rutting. |                                     |                                     |
| 7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater.   |                                     |                                     |
| 8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No change in land use and no specially-designated areas were identified.  |                                     |                                     |
| 9. <b>Visual Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The proposed work is not anticipated to significantly impact visual quality.  |                                     |                                     |
| 10. <b>Air Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Any fugitive dust generated during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.  |                                     |                                     |
| 11. <b>Noise</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Construction noise from typical utility line equipment would be temporary and localized.  |                                     |                                     |
| 12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <u>Explanation:</u> 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:

- 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: The project area is on BPA fee-owned property. The BPA Realty Specialist will coordinate with adjacent landowners prior to work, if necessary.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: February 19, 2019