

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Fairview-Rogue No. 1 Structure 54/2 Repair Project

**PP&A No.:** 4343

**Project Manager:** Andy Crosby - TFEP-NORTH BEND

**Location:** Curry County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to perform repairs to Fairview-Rogue No. 1, Structure 54/2. A landslide displaced the base of the steel lattice dead-end structure 12-15 feet in relation to the centerline of the transmission line. The structure was not significantly damaged; however, the tensions of the conductors, both ahead and behind the structure, were affected, and are no longer within the desired ranges. BPA proposes to correct the conductor tensions, by adding and removing insulators. Additionally, other components of the structure and conductor may be replaced or added as necessary, such as lattice pieces, dead-end fittings, conductor splices, jumpers, and hardware. To perform the work, BPA proposes to utilize conventional utility line techniques and a combination of the following equipment: boom truck, bucket trucks, a crane, and work trucks. No work is anticipated on the structures ahead and behind structure 54/2. To perform the necessary repairs, the area around the structure must be prepared to provide a safe working surface for the transmission line equipment. BPA proposes to use a combination of a backhoe, excavator, dozer, skid steer, and dump truck to re-establish access and create an equipment landing. Approximately 0.25 acres of upland terrain would be disturbed and approximately 50 cubic yards of soil would be disposed of on site, or hauled off-site. Following the structure repairs, disturbed soils would be contoured to blend with existing terrain and restored with an appropriate seed mix and mulch. The work would take approximately five work days in August of 2020.

**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, Jul. 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 W. Jahn

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*

Sarah T. Biegel, August 7, 2020

NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Fairview-Rogue No. 1 Structure 54/2 Repair Project

### Project Site Description

Structure 54/2 is located on an upland slope. The site is covered in grass with some shrubs and noxious weeds present in the right-of-way (ROW). There are several rock outcroppings surrounding the structure, as well as wetlands in depressions down slope of the structure.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

#### 1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The BPA contract archaeologist completed background research and an intensive field survey of the proposed project area and determined the project actions would result in No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. No previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the project area; however, upon field survey for this project one not eligible historic isolate was identified, and no further management of the resource is necessary. Additionally, two historic properties were identified within the ROW: the Fairview-Rogue No. 1 and the Bandon-Rogue No. 1 Transmission Lines. However, the proposed project activities would not diminish any of the standards under which they are considered eligible and would not result in an adverse effect.

No additional review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required for this action at this time. Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the Environmental Protection Specialist should be notified immediately.

#### 2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Project activities are expected to cause temporary soil disturbances that increase the chance of project-related erosion. Site restoration would begin during, and immediately after, the pole replacements and would include the minimization measures discussed below. Additional BMPs would be implemented as necessary. Therefore, the proposed action would have limited temporary impacts to geology and soils.

Notes:

- Prepare soils for revegetation by contouring, if necessary, to blend with existing topography, and by surface-roughening by tracking and/or contour furrows as described in BMP C130 in the Western Washington Stormwater Manual.
- Re-establish vegetative cover/stabilization by seeding and mulching as described in BMP C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding; and C121: Mulching. An appropriate seed mix would be chosen from BMP C120 and applied at the recommended rate, unless otherwise specified by landowner.
- Use bonded fiber matrix (as discussed in BMP C122) for slopes greater than 2.5H:1V (40 percent) or rolled erosion control products (as discussed in BMP C122: Nets and Blankets).

### **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Vegetation would be removed in ground disturbance areas, which would take place in upland areas within maintained transmission rights-of-way and access roads. There are no Federal/state special-status species and habitats known to occur in the project area. Therefore, the proposed action would not affect special-status plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal/state special-status species and habitats known to occur in the project area; therefore, the proposed action would not affect Federal/state special-status wildlife. Non-sensitive wildlife that may utilize the project area could be affected by construction noise, use of equipment, and human activity; however, these impacts would be temporary, would only occur during daylight hours, and habitat would not be modified in a way that would preclude the future use of the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities are located in upland areas away from waterbodies, floodplains, or listed fish species; therefore, the project would have no impacts to these resources.

### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Wetlands adjacent to the project area would be avoided.

Notes:

- Identify adjacent wetlands prior to commencing ground-disturbing activities.
- Avoid disturbing wetlands.
- Placing permanent or temporary fill within wetlands is not permitted.

### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities are not expected to impact groundwater or aquifers. Excavation would not occur below approximately six feet and is not anticipated to intersect groundwater.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area may be used for livestock grazing. Project activities may temporarily reduce the available forage. There are no specially-designated areas in the project vicinity.

### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is also away from, and not visible from, nearby areas with general public access. Once restoration is complete, the visual condition of the right-of-way would be consistent with the surrounding ROW.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Exhaust and dust from utility equipment may temporarily reduce air quality in the immediate project area.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA personnel would develop a site-specific health and safety plan to address any hazards during the proposed work. The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line and to maintain power delivery in the region.

### **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: N/A

**Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.**

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The proposed project is within BPA's ROW easement and consistent with activities typically permitted by easement agreements. Landowner notification is not required; however, the BPA District Realty Specialist has notified the property owner.

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

Signed: /s/ Oden Jahn      Date: August 7, 2020  
Natural Resource Specialist – EPI-4