

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: 2024 Expedited Priority Poles Traditional Method Replacements

Project No.:

Project Manager: Amanda Williams, TEPL-TPP-1

Location: Multiple counties in Oregon, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace deteriorating wood pole structures and associated hardware and guy wires at specific locations in multiple BPA districts. The structures proposed for replacement are listed below in Table 1. The work would include removing the existing wood pole structures (and guy wires if present) and replacing them in or adjacent to the existing location. Trucks and equipment would be staged in work areas about 50 feet by 50 feet at each of the structure replacement locations. Existing access roads would be used to access the work areas but landing improvements, such as minor leveling or grading, may occur. No helicopter use would be required. Fire wraps would also be added where appropriate.

The proposed action would maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Table 1. List of proposed structures to be replaced.

Maintenance Headquarters	Line Name	Mile	Structure
Alvey	Albany-Burnt Woods No 1	11	3
Alvey	Albany-Burnt Woods No 1	6	5
Alvey	Albany-Lebanon No 1	16	6
Alvey	Alvey-Fairview No 1	63	3
Alvey	Alvey-Fairview No 1	64	1
Alvey	Alvey-Fairview No 1	64	2
Alvey	Lookout Point-Alvey No 1	2	7
Alvey	Lookout Point-Alvey No 2	16	1
Alvey	Santiam-Toledo No 1	29	5
Alvey	Santiam-Toledo No 1	31	3
Alvey	Santiam-Toledo No 1	31	4
Alvey	Santiam-Toledo No 1	31	5

Maintenance Headquarters	Line Name	Mile	Structure
Alvey	Santiam-Toledo No 1	36	4
Bell	Bell-Addy No 1	2	2
Chehalis	Chehalis-Mayfield No 1	19	8
Chehalis	Chehalis-Mayfield No 1	2	5
Chehalis	Chehalis-Olympia No 1	9	1
Chehalis	Chehalis-Olympia No 1	9	8
Chehalis	Mossyrock-Chehalis No 1	14	6
Chemawa	Keeler-Forest Grove No 2	7	8
Chemawa	Keeler-Forest Grove No 2	8	6
Chemawa	Keeler-Oregon City No 2	18	10
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	11	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	13	7
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	13	8
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	14	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	15	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	15	7
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	16	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	17	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	18	1
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	18	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	18	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	18	9
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	19	7
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	19	8
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	20	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	21	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	22	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	22	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	25	4
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	25	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	28	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	4	1
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	5	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No 1	9	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	1	10
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	1	8
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	11	2
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	11	4
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	14	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	14	7
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	14	8
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	16	6

Maintenance Headquarters	Line Name	Mile	Structure
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	2	1
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	2	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	2	8
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	2	9
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	3	3
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	3	4
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	3	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	5	6
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	7	5
Grand Coulee	Grand Coulee-Okanogan No 2	9	1
North Bend	Bandon-Rogue No 1	25	2
North Bend	Bandon-Rogue No 1	25	3
North Bend	Bandon-Rogue No 1	4	6
North Bend	Reedsport-Fairview No 1	23	6
Olympia	Olympia-Shelton No 1	2	6
Olympia	Olympia-South Elma No 1	9	4
Olympia	Shelton-Fairmount No 2	13	5
Olympia	Shelton-Fairmount No 2	49	3
Olympia	Shelton-Fairmount No 2	49	8
Olympia	Shelton-Fairmount No 2	50	6
Olympia	Shelton-Fairmount No 2	56	5
Pasco	Benton-451B No 1	2	5
Pasco	CGS Backup Bank Tap to Benton-451B No 1	1	9
Pasco	Grandview-Red Mountain No 1	21	9
Pasco	Grandview-Red Mountain No 1	22	11
Pasco	Grandview-Red Mountain No 1	22	12
Pasco	Grandview-Red Mountain No 1	23	1
Pasco	McNary-Franklin No 2	10	5
Pasco	Red Mountain-Richland No 1	7	3
Pasco	Walla Walla-Tucannon River No 1	20	7
Redmond	LaPine-Chiloquin No 1	6	1
Redmond	LaPine-Chiloquin No 1	6	4
Snohomish	Snohomish-Beverly Park No 4	4	5
Snohomish	Snohomish-Beverly Park No 4	5	7
Snohomish	Snohomish-Murray No 1	17	7
The Dalles	Big Eddy-Quenett Creek No 1	4	1
The Dalles	Bonneville PH 1-Hood River No 1	22	7
The Dalles	Morrow Flat-Jones Canyon No 1	20	3

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/ Jonnel Deacon

Jonnel Deacon

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel Date: April 10, 2024

NEPA Compliance Officers

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: 2024 Expedited Priority Poles Traditional Method Replacements

Project Site Description

Structures being replaced are in a variety of environments across Oregon and Washington. No waterbodies are near project work areas; however, some structures are located in wetlands.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation and made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on January 31 and February 1 for project locations in Oregon. Letters were sent to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; Coquille Indian Tribe; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; Klamath Tribes, and the Bureau of Land Management – Prineville District. Any responses from consulting parties were addressed as they were received.

BPA initiated consultation and made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act January 30 and 31 for project locations in Washington as well as January 31 and February 1 for project locations in Oregon. Letters were sent to the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Oregon State Department of Historic Preservation Office, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Tulalip Tribes, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Any responses from consulting parties were addressed as they were received.

Notes: In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacement and landing improvement. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal or no disturbance to vegetation is anticipated during structure replacements and landing improvements. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species. No impacts to state or federally sensitive species are anticipated. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted access road and transmission line right-of-way and would not substantially alter existing plant communities.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have a small impact to wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with elevated equipment noise and human presence. The project would have no impacts to state or federally listed sensitive species.

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

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: The project area would not impact water bodies that support resident, anadromous, or ESA-listed fish. Any structures being replaced in a floodplain would have pole wraps installed to prevent wood pole preservative from entering the environment. Erosion control best management practices combined with the distance to the nearest waterbody would ensure that sedimentation would not enter into any water body.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: Wetlands are documented within the project area. Structure replacements would occur within wetlands. All wetland impacts would be consistent with the Clean Water Act. Pole wraps would be installed to prevent wood pole preservative from entering the environment.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use. No specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-way. Replacement of the wood pole and associated components would be in kind and replaced in the same location; therefore, there would not be a change to the visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power 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: BPA has coordinated with the underlying land managers and private land owners for this work.

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

Signed: /s/ Jonnel Deacon Date: April 10, 2024
Physical Scientist (Environment)
EPR-Olympia