

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Reedsport-Fairview No. 1 5/5 Road Repair

**Project No.:** P06570

**Project Manager:** Jeffrey Hurt, TEPL-CSB-2

**Location:** Douglas County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance, B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to repair about 6,800 linear feet (1.3 miles) of access roads and a landing associated with transmission structure 5/5 on the Reedsport-Fairview No. 1 transmission line in the North Bend district. Access road work would begin at the gate adjacent to Hwy 101 and would end at the landing of structure 5/5.

BPA proposes to improve/reconstruct these access roads and landings due to damage, such as rutting, that occurred during previous emergency repair activities to the 5/5 structure. BPA proposes to conduct light road grading, to include smoothing, reshaping, and filling irregularities that would not impact any native soil beneath imported fill. Damaged or destroyed drain dips and waterbars would be replaced. Landings would be bladed and shaped, and crushed rock installed for surfacing. Rock no greater than 45 tons per 100 feet of road surface (approximately 8-10 inches deep) would be added to existing road surfaces and approaches and potholes would be filled. BPA would also reconstruct the ditches immediately adjacent to access roads to restore the prior width-to-depth ratio, and install geotextile fabric within the established road prism. If needed, erosion control measures and revegetation would occur along access roads and adjacent to landings. When working on land not owned or managed by BPA, material and design guidelines set forth by land owners or managers would be followed.

These actions would occur on existing access roads and landings on private property for which BPA has an easement. Access roads would possess a well-defined and established prism and travel surface that includes a rock base and surface. Equipment would include an excavator, roller, and dump trucks, as well as light duty trucks. The work would occur in the fall of 2024. 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. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**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/ Steven Selser*

Steven D. Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Katey Grange*

Katey C. Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 23, 2024

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:** Reedsport-Fairview 5/5 Road Repair

## **Project Site Description**

The project area would be in the Coast Range south of Reedsport, Oregon. Mainly the surrounding area consists of late-successional forest with steep terrain. The access road, for which BPA has rights to use and maintain, leading to the Reedsport-Fairview 5/5 transmission line structure is the central component of the project area, situated in privately held timber land. Vegetation along the access road consists mainly of Douglas fir trees and low lying vegetation such as Oregon grape and salal. The access road bisects two waterbodies, Lake Edna and Clear Lake, near Hwy 101. The closest proximity to either lake is about 50 feet.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation and sent a no historic properties affected determination to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, on June 6, 2024. The CTCLUSI concurred on June 6, 2024, and the Oregon SHPO concurred on July 16, 2024. No additional response was received within 30 days.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: Access road and landing improvements would involve blading and shaping, followed by placement of rock and compaction of the footprint. Disturbed, un-rocked soils would be stabilized with hydromulch, native seed, and erosion control blankets. As necessary, erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, such as straw mulch and wattles. Restoration efforts would be inspected prior to demobilization, and monitored to ensure final stabilization goals are met.

Notes:

- Use erosion control best management practices.
- Revegetate disturbed soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to vegetation is anticipated. 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

Explanation: The project area is not located within a floodplain but there are two nearby water bodies that support anadromous fish; Clear Lake and Lake Edna. Erosion control best management practices combined with the distance to the nearest waterbody (greater than 50 feet) would ensure that sedimentation would not enter into any water body.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are within the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 inches 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 and access road prisms.

#### **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: All activities have been coordinated with landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Steven Selser  
Steven D. Selser  
EPR-CHEMAWA

Date: July 23, 2024