

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Sale of Structure 2/6 of East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 Line

**Project Manager:** Joan Kendall

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to transfer ownership of the wooden pole at Mile 2, Structure 6, of the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 transmission line, to the City of Ellensburg. BPA is updating the structures along this span of the transmission line and would otherwise abandon or remove the subject pole; however, the City of Ellensburg has requested that the pole remain for their use. There is no ground disturbance proposed for this action.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 21, 2016

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.

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### Project Site Description

The proposed wooden pole asset transfer is located in a utility right-of-way, on the south side of East Helena Ave. The site is surrounded by residential sub-divisions to the south, east, and west; and a large undeveloped field to the north. The topography is flat. Grasses dominate the vegetation at the subject location. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies at the site.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed. The project was reviewed and it was determined that the subject pole is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

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

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

11. **Noise**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

### **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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: There would be no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: March 21, 2016