

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Naselle-Tarlett Transmission Line hardware replacements

Project Manager: Jim Semrau, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Pacific County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Chehalis District

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace hardware on five transmission line structures in mile two and three of the Naselle-Tarlett No. 1 & 2 transmission lines in Pacific County, Washington; BPA's Chehalis Maintenance District. The work will include removing deteriorating hardware, insulators, and guy wires and replacing in-kind in the same location. The structures are accessible by current access roads, no road work is necessary at this time. See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section
Naselle-Tarlett No. 1	2/6, 2/7, 2/8, 3/1	11N	9W	31
Naselle-Tarlett No. 2	3/1	11N	9W	31

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/ Phil Smith for
Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 1, 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

All work would be done in existing managed right-of-way that crosses private agricultural land.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbing activities are planned for this project. The proposed work is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The hardware replacements will be in kind at the existing locations.</p> <p>In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) will be contacted.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbing activities are planned for this project.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in agricultural fields; no vegetation would be removed and no special-status-species are present.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in agricultural fields with little wildlife habitat; no special-status species or critical habitats would be affected.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This section of line runs along the Naselle River with habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, however there is a riparian buffer between the line and river, work would occur in flat agricultural fields, and no ground disturbing activities, vegetation removal, or in-water work is planned for this project.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Structure 4/8 on the Raymond-Willapa River No. 1 line resides within and adjacent to an estuarine and marine wetland, adjacent to the Naselle River. The structures are accessible from an existing filled access road. No ground disturbing activities are planned for this project. There will be no temporary or permanent fill within the identified wetland outside of the existing road bed.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. All spills will be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The project locations are confined to the existing transmission line ROW corridors. All surrounding lands are private agricultural use lands. Project locations do not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities will not alter or effect visual quality. Hardware replacements are in-kind and will not be visibly different that existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance will be limited to general construction equipment activities, be for a short duration, and occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Completion of this project with increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

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 has been discussed with the landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith for
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: June 1, 2016