

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chehalis-Olympia No. 1 transmission line priority pole replacements

Project Manager: Jim Semrau, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Thurston County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Olympia 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 two transmission line structures on the Chehalis-Olympia No.1 transmission line in Thurston County, Washington; BPA's Olympia Maintenance District. The work will include removing deteriorating wood poles, hardware, insulators, and guy wires and replacing in-kind in the same location. Since the new poles will be installed in the same location minimal new excavation will be required.

In addition, the project includes minor improvements to existing road surfaces and landings (blading & rocking) to safely accommodate work vehicles.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission line.

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section
Chehalis-Olympia No. 1	16/8 & 16/9	15N	3W	11

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/ Greg Tippetts

Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 3, 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 lands.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project APE. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. Washington DAHP agreed with a no effects determination from the survey report on 5/26/16, Log No.: 2016-03-01670-BPA. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work will cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) will be contacted.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Storm water BMPs will be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor; no vegetation would be removed and no special-status species are present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor with little wildlife habitat; no special-status species or critical habitats would be affected.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies, floodplains, or fish habitat are located at or near the project work areas. Appropriate Storm water BMPs will be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands occur at or within the area of influence of the work sites.		

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. Structure replacements are in-kind and will not be visibly different from the 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: Notifications via mailed letters have been sent to all current landowners approximately 3-8 weeks prior to project initiation. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners/managers concerning the proposed project.

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 3, 2016