

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 Footing Repair and Access Road Improvement
Project: Structures 95/2, 95/3, 95/4, and 99/1

PP&A #: 3041

Project Manager: Theresa Berry

Location: King County, Washington

Project activities would occur in the sections listed below:

Township	Range	Section
22N	9E	2
22N	10E	6, 7, 8, 17
23N	9E	34, 35

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to pour concrete caps to reinforce the crumbling footings of structures 95/2, 95/3, 95/4, and 99/1. Repairs to BPA access roads leading to these towers are also needed to provide safe access for the cement truck and other heavy equipment. Road repairs would include grading and adding aggregate surfacing to approximately 4,975 linear feet (0.94 mile) of road, as well as improving surface drainage by out-sloping, and adding drainage dips, water bars, cross drains, etc.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn
Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 10, 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.

Proposed Action: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 Footing Repair and Access Road Improvement Project:

Project Site Description

Grass and shrub right-of-way and existing access roads surrounded by upland forest within United States Forest Service's (USFS) Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed action was evaluated by the USFS Archaeologist and was determined to meet “the conditions listed in Appendix A of the [USFS] Programmatic Agreement [with DAHP], and does not require case-by-case review because it is a special use site repair not requiring expansion. The proposed action is survey-exempted per FSM 2363.15, because it is a ‘non-undertaking’ with maintenance confined to existing roadways and no historic properties are involved.”</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> 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; interested tribes; WA DAHP; and the appropriate local, state and federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Excess material would be contoured to match surrounding terrain, track-walked, seeded, and mulched.</p>		
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area.</p>		
<p>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitat are recorded in the project area.</p>		
<p>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is at least ¼-mile from the nearest waterbody. No water quality impacts are</p>		

anticipated.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project areas are located in an upland area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is in an upland area. Minimal ground disturbance is expected and thus, no impact to groundwater is anticipated.

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



Explanation: The proposed project would not change land use and no specially designated areas were identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The proposed project would not change the visual quality of the area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust or vehicle emissions generated during project implementation will be temporary and negligible.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise will be temporary and localized. There are no residences in the project area.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities will not impact human health or safety.

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: On June 6, 2016, the USFS concurred with BPA's findings and use of a Categorical Exclusion for the proposed work. BPA would implement all USFS-identified Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices listed in the June 6th letter.

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

Signed: /s/ Oden Jahn
Oden Jahn
Physical Scientist

Date: June 10, 2016