

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** FY16 Salem District Wood Pole Replacements

**Project No.:** 3485

**Project Manager:** Gary Beck TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Washington, Tillamook, Yamhill, Clackamas, Marion and Polk counties, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace 36 deteriorating wood-pole structures along the transmission lines referenced in the table below. Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger would be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Minor road and landing maintenance is scheduled to be performed at select wood pole replacement structures. Access road work would take place in the existing road prism and would be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of specific segments that have become impassable.

Transmission Line ROW	Structure	Township	Range	Section	County	Ownership/Land Use
Boyer-Tillamook #1	9/5	5S	9W	9	Tillamook	Commercial Forestry
	10/2, 11/1, 12/7	4S	9W	29, 33	Tillamook	USFS
	21/1, 21/2	3S	9W	20	Tillamook	Commercial Forestry
	27/8, 28/8	2S	9W	16, 21	Tillamook	Commercial Forestry
	33/19 - 33/22	1S	9W	30	Tillamook	City of Tillamook
Forest Grove-McMinville #1	3/5	1S	4W	12	Washington	Agriculture
Keeler-Forest Grove #2	1/6, 2/7, 5/8	1N	2W	19, 22, 23	Washington	Agriculture

	7/8	1N	3W	23	Washington	Agriculture
Keeler-Oregon City #2	8/3	1N	1WW	32	Washington	Rural Residential
	10/5, 10/12, 10/13, 11/6	1S	1W	8, 17	Washington	Residential
	16/2, 18/7	2S	1W	9, 21	Washington	Urban
Oregon City-Canby #1	4/3, 4/8	3S	1W	26	Clackamas	Rural Industrial
	5/6 – 5/12, 5/14, 6/7	3S	1W	27, 34	Marion	Rural Industrial, Agriculture
Oregon City-Chemawa #2	9/7, 9/8	4S	1W	17	Marion	City of Donald
	17/10, 20/1	5S	2W	22, 32	Marion	Agriculture
	24/8, 25/23, 25/24	6S	3W	24, 25	Marion	City of Keizer
Salem-Grande Ronde #1	8/7	7S	4W	7	Yamhill	Agriculture
Timber Tap	1/9	2N	5W	36	Washington	Commercial Forestry
Walnut City Tap	4/10, 4/13, 4/14, 4/16	4S	4W	7	Yamhill	Agriculture
	5/1, 5/2, 5/9, 6/5, 6/6	4S	4W	18, 19	Yamhill	City of McMinnville

**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/ Benjamin J. Tilley  
Benjamin J. Tilley  
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 28, 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:** Salem District FY16 Wood Pole Replacements

### Project Site Description

All work would be within existing BPA transmission line rights-of-way that cross urban residential and rural industrial, agricultural, and commercial forestry properties. Several locations are within urban areas (cities of Tillamook, Donald, and Keizer, Oregon).

### 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> Oregon SHPO (Case No. 16-0478) concurred on July 12, 2016, that implementation would result in no historic or archaeological properties affected. Based on the information provided, additional archaeological research is not anticipated for this project. In the unlikely event an archaeological object or site (i.e., historic or prehistoric) is encountered during project implementation, all ground disturbance at the location should cease immediately until a professional archaeologist can be contacted to evaluate the discovery.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is in a previously disturbed right-of-way within the existing transmission line corridor. The ground disturbance for the wood pole replacements expected is that typically associated with removing a 2-pole transmission line support structure and guy-anchors (0.05 acre) and installation of the replacement poles (0.04 acre). Work locations in agricultural settings would be scheduled to not affect seasonal crops. No off-site fill material would be utilized on agricultural sites. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected. Work locations in urban areas would be coordinated with property owners/managers to assure minimizing disturbance to landscaped areas.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> At structures 25/23 and 25/24 on the Oregon City-Chemawa #2, historic state data shows potential presence of Willamette Valley Prairie Species (5). BPA conducted surveys in 2012 in this area and found no listed species present, as well as very low potential site conditions for the species to exist in the future. The location is currently within the city of Keizer, Oregon.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federally-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat present at or adjacent to the project area.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



Explanation: Structure 4/16 on the Walnut City Tap is within 100 feet of Baker Creek, containing EFH for Lower Columbia River Steelhead and Coho Salmon. The work location is flat and the potential ground disturbance is minimal due to no road or landing work required at this location. Typical erosion control BMPs (i.e. silt fencing, revegetation of disturbed areas) would be implemented to prevent sediment movement from the work site into the riparian area. All other work locations are located in residential, agricultural, or high elevation sites, and are lacking any adjacent surface water presence.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are identified within or adjacent to any of the project work sites. BMPs employed in #5 above would minimize or prevent any potential runoff that could compromise water quality.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater. Disturbance from the project work would be physical in nature with no potential contaminants other than vehicular fluids that could possibly leak on-site. Spill kits would be in every vehicle and piece of work equipment present at all work locations. Maximum depth of disturbance is only expected between 10 to 12 feet.

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



Explanation: Land use along these line corridors is predominately commercial forestry, agriculture, rural industrial, and urban properties. The project would not alter the appearance or function of lands at the work sites.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The wood pole structures would be in-kind replacements of poles of the same size, shape, and location. Some minor rocking of the landing areas in some locations would be typical of disturbance expected with maintenance work. The visual impact of the overall project would be short-lived and would blend in quickly with the surrounding configurations.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Work activities for this project are maintenance-level in nature and should be completed in a short time period with minimal crews and machinery, resulting in temporary exhaust fumes and potentially dust during dry periods. Dust control measures would be used if necessary.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur from work activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions exist at identified work sites. A site-specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis would be developed and approved by BPA prior to work commencing. Daily job briefings would occur prior to work initiation each day to assure an overview of all potential hazards involved for that work day.

### **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: Private property owners have been notified via local public notification. Identified concerns would be addressed and mitigations implemented prior to project initiation.

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

Signed: /s/ Benjamin J. Tilley  
Benjamin J. Tilley, EP-Alvey

Date: July 29, 2016