

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: LaPine - Chiloquin Transmission Line Wood Pole Replacements

PP&A Project No.: 3462

Project Manager: Richard Heredia – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Klamath County, OR; Bonneville Power Administration’s Redmond District

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County	Ownership/Land Use
LaPine-Chiloquin No. 1	17/6, 18/1	24S	09E	11	Klamath	State Lands/Forest
	21/4	25S	09E	16	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	23/1	25S	09E	21	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	31/1, 31/2, 31/8	26S	08E	21	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	32/2, 32/4, 3/27	26S	08E	29	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	33/5, 33/8	26S	08E	32	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	35/6, 35/7, 36/1, 36/2	27S	08E	07	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	36/6, 36/7, 37/1, 37/3, 37/4	27S	08E	18	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	37/6, 38/1	27S	08E	19	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	38/5, 38/8	27S	08E	30	Klamath	USFS/Forest
	39/6, 39/7	27S	08E	31	Klamath	Private/Timber
	*47/5	29S	07E	12	Klamath	Private/Timber

* Will require switch replacement

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 deteriorating wood-pole structures (including, cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) on the La Pine - Chiloquin transmission line. Replacement would be in-kind and will 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. Cross arms and braces may be also replaced at other locations along the line. A switch would be replaced at structure 47/5.

Minor maintenance of landing and access roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required to allow for safe working conditions. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in

any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking and construction of waterbars and drain dips.

The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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/ Fred Walasavage

Fred Walasavage

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 5, 2016

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

Effects Determination for T&E Species

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 project activities will be conducted on BPA Transmission line rights-of-way. The site locations primarily consist of Federal lands (USFS-Deschutes National Forest). The project area is mostly flat to rolling terrain and vegetation consists of pine forest, grasses and steppe shrubs.

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>BPA archeological approval and Oregon SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination on July 20, 2016. Klamath Tribes, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Warm Springs Tribes consulted—no response.</p> <p>Inadvertent discovery form will be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> While populations of Pumice grapefern exist along the ROW, no work will be conducted within the known areas as identified by the USFS. No other special-status species present. No vegetation removal is expected; however, any disturbed areas outside of the roadways, landings and 15 feet from the poles will be reseeded.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. No suitable habitat is present in project area for listed wildlife species.</p>		

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



Explanation: None present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present in project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No contact with ground water. The proposed work is in an upland area; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface.

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



Explanation: No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: New wood poles will be similar to existing structures and would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise will be temporary and localized.

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

Landowners will be notified by the BPA Realty Specialist prior to construction. Coordination with the Deschutes National Forest was initiated and will continue through completion of the project.

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

Signed: /s/ Fred Walasavage
Fred Walasavage

Date: August 5, 2016