

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Big Eddy - Redmond Transmission Line Wood Pole Replacements

PP&A Project No.: 3462

Project Manager: Richard Heredia – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Wasco, Jefferson, and Deschutes Counties - Oregon; BPA's Redmond District

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.) along the specified line. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will 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.

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

Transmission Line	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
Big Eddy-Redmond #1	43/5, 44/1	6S	15E	29	Wasco, OR	Private/Range
	54/4	8S	15E	18	Wasco, OR	Private/Range
	56/8	8S	15E	31	Wasco, OR	BLM/Range
	64/5	10S	14E	02	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	65/4	10S	14E	10	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	68/2, 68/7	10S	14E	28	Jefferson, OR	Private/Ag.
	74/2, 74/5, 74/6	11S	14E	19	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	75/2	11S	14E	30	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	79/7	12S	14E	18	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	80/6	12S	14E	19	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	81/2	12S	14E	30	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	83/6	13S	13E	01	Jefferson, OR	National Grassland
	89/1, 89/8	13S	13E	33	Jefferson, OR	Private/Range
	98/5	15S	13E	01	Deschutes, OR	Private/Range
	98/10	15S	13E	18	Jefferson, OR	Private/Range

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 10, 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 right-of-way. The site locations primarily consist of private and Federal lands (BLM and USFS's Crooked River National Grasslands). The project area ranges from mostly flat to rolling terrain. Vegetation primarily consists of 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"/>
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.		
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.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No 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.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. No suitable habitat is present in project area for listed wildlife species.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present in project area.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> 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. Work will be conducted with portions of the Crooked River National Grassland; however, there will be no disturbance outside of the road or landing prisms.

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:

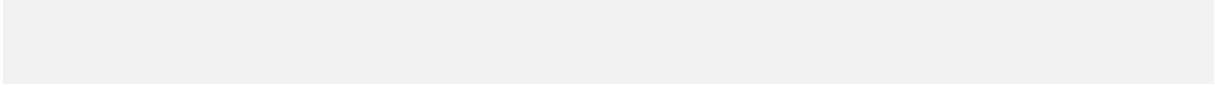
- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

- 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.

- 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.



Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Landowners will be notified by the BPA Realty Specialist prior to construction.

Initial notification to the BLM, Prineville District was made on January 11, 2016. Initial notification to the Ochoco National Forest/Crooked River National Grassland was made on January 15, 2016.

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 – EP-CELILO

Date: August 10, 2016