

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Brasada-Harney, Redmond-Brasada No. 1 Transmission Lines 2016 Wood Pole Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 3462

Project Manager: Richard Heredia – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Deschutes, Crook, and Harney Counties, OR

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County	Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #
Redmond-Brasada	7/6	16S	13E	10	Deschutes	BLM/Range	
	11/6, 11/8	16S	14E	29	Crook	BLM/Range	

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County	Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #
Brasada – Harney No.1	9/1	17	15E	29	Crook	BLM/Range	
	10/5, 10/6	18S	15E	5	Crook	BLM/Range	
	23/8	19S	16E	22	Deschutes	Private/Range	
	31/6	19S	16E	11	Deschutes	BLM/Range	
	46/5	21S	19E	13	Deschutes	State/Range	
	51/1	21S	20E	27	Deschutes	Private/Range	
	59/5	22S	21E	11	Deschutes	BLM/Range	
	66/4	22S	22E	22	Deschutes	BLM/Range	
	74/5, 74/6	23S	24E	7	Harney	BLM/Range	
	78/3	23S	24E	23	Harney	BLM/Range	
	96/1	23S	27E	22	Harney	BLM/Range	

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 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. 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 improve access within the transmission line corridor. 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 water bars 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/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 23, 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.

Proposed Action: Brasada-Harney, Redmond-Brasada No. 1 Transmission Lines 2016 Wood Pole I

Project Site Description

The project activities would be conducted on BPA transmission line rights-of-way. The site locations primarily consist of private and Federal (i.e., Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District) lands. The project area is mostly flat and vegetation 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BPA archeological approval and Oregon SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination July 19, 2016. Klamath Tribes, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Warm Springs Tribes consulted—no response. ▪ Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work would immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist would be notified. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Geology and Soils <p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected. All disturbed areas outside of the roadways, landings, and 15 feet from the poles would be reseeded.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species) <p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. All disturbed areas outside of the roadways, landings, and 15 feet from the poles would be reseeded.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats) <p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or suitable habitat present in project area. The work would entail minimal human disturbance.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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: 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 would 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 would be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



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

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

BPA has coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management Prineville District; no issues were raised.

Notification letters will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to all other landowners prior to work.

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 23, 2016