

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Replace buckling tower 1/9 on the Raymond-Henkle Street No 1 line

Project No. (if applicable): 3040

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

Location: Pacific County, near Raymond, WA - BPA's Chehalis District. Project location is listed below:

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership/Land Use
	1/9	14N	9W	12, 13	Pacific, WA	Private/Forested

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace a buckling lattice transmission tower with a wood pole H structure. An auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. New landing construction or access road development is not planned. Minor maintenance of landing and roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required to maintain the existing system.

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.

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/ Andrew Chang

Andrew Chang
Biological Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 6, 2015

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: Replacement of Raymond-Henkle Street No. 1, Tower 1/9

Project Site Description

The project activities will be conducted on BPA Transmission line right-of-way one mile North of the town of Raymond WA.

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>▪ <u>Explanation:</u> Washington SHPO agreed with no effects determination from BPA Archaeology survey on 01/05/2015. Cowlitz, Chehalis, Quinault and Shoalwater Tribes had no comment during process.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All activity will be confined to existing access road and transmission line corridor.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed work must use existing access roads and landings. No off-access road driving, staging, or landing or road improvements shall occur during this work. Upon review, it was determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project area for listed plant species.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Upon review, it was determined that there is no habitat within the project area for listed wildlife species. There is a 1998 incidence of marbled murrelet North of the Raymond substation, 2/5 of a mile from the project. The proposed tower replacement activities will not have any impact on marbled murrelet.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> None present in project area.</p>		

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| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> None present in project area. | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The proposed work is in an upland area. No streams or water conveyences near project site. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The project will not significantly alter or effect visual quality. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minor. | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Construction noise will be temporary and localized. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Project activities will not impact human health or safety. Project is not adjacent to public access. | | |

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: Land notification conducted by BPA Real Property Field Services.

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

Signed: /s/ Andrew Chang

Date: January 6, 2015