

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration Department
of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross-Lexington No. 1 Span 2/2, 5/3, and 19/4 Impairment Remedy

Project No.: 3,867

Project Manager: Tina Edwards, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Clark County, WA

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to remedy three impairments along the Ross-Lexington No. 1 corridor ahead on line from structures 2/2, 5/3, and 19/4. Impairments occur when the distance between a surface and the overhead conductor is not sufficient to meet safety and reliability standards.

BPA is proposing to repair two impairments along the Ross-Lexington No. 1 corridor by excavating earth to mitigate these impairments ahead on line at structure 2/2 and 5/3. The site would be accessed using existing access roads. These would be excavated using dozers and excavators.

BPA is proposing to remedy the impairment ahead on line from 19/4 by installing a two-wood pole prop structure. The wood poles would be installed using an auger truck and disturbance would be minimal.

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/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 23, 2018

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: Ross-Lexington No. 1 Span 2/2, 5/3, and 19/4 Impairment Remedy

Project Site Description

The impairment remedies would be located in Clark County, WA within existing transmission line right-of-way. The project area consists of suburban residential homes and agricultural land.

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	☒	☐
<u>Explanation:</u> A cultural survey was conducted at all Ross-Lexington No.1 span impairment locations. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by undertaking. WA DAHP concurred with BPA's No Adverse Effect determination for all Ross-Lexington No. 1 impairment project locations listed in this CX. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the DAHP and the environmental project lead will be notified.		
2. Geology and Soils	☐	☒
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would involve soil removal and disturbance at all three impairment locations. Erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to stabilize soil during and after construction.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	☒	☐
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. Work is to be conducted in an existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW). Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be seeded with a geographical and climate-appropriate seed mix or one approved by the landowner.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	☒	☐
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitat present. Work to be performed in existing ROW.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	☒	☐
<u>Explanation:</u> Project would not be in a floodplain. There are no streams or drainages in or near the project area.		

6. Wetlands ☒ ☐

Explanation: The proposed work would not impact any wetlands in the vicinity of the project.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers ☒ ☐

Explanation: The proposed work is not located near any known aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas ☒ ☐

Explanation: The work is on existing right-of-way and access roads and will not impact land use.

9. Visual Quality ☒ ☐

Explanation: Proposed action is on existing access roads and will not alter or effect visual quality.

10. Air Quality ☒ ☐

Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emission due to construction.

11. Noise ☒ ☐

Explanation: Construction noise will be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety ☒ ☐

Explanation: Proposed action is on existing right-of-way and access roads and 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

Description: The proposed project is located on private land. BPA would continue ongoing coordination with the landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Stacy L. Mason
Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist

Date: July 23, 2018