

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 28, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jonathan Toobian  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Longview-Cowlitz Fiber Optic Cable Upgrade (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued January 6, 2014*)

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.7 Fiber optic cable

**Location:** Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The previous categorical exclusion addressed the installation of 3 miles of aerial fiber optic cable on BPA's Longview-Cowlitz 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and the rebuild of eight of the transmission structures to accommodate the additional weight of the fiber optic cable. In addition to the work described in the previous categorical exclusion, BPA proposes to rebuild eight additional wood pole structures to a higher pole class. The additional structures to be rebuilt on the Longview-Cowlitz 115-kV transmission line include 1/5, 2/4, 2/7, 2/9, 3/2, 3/4, 4/3, and 4/4.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

*/s/ Justin T. Moffett*  
Justin T. Moffett  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce*                      Date: May 28, 2014  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s):  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions  
Provisions  
Inadvertent Discovery Language

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

#### **Cultural Resources**

An archaeological monitor will be present during all ground disturbing activities that occur during wood pole replacement. In the event that any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions will be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead Claire McClory KEC-4, BPA archaeologist Brian O'Donnchadha KEC-4, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Washington DAHP, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.
- Refer to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Inadvertent Discovery Language appended to this document.

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Longview-Cowlitz Fiber Optic Cable Upgrade (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued January 6, 2014*)

Work Order #: 308589

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources An archaeological monitor will attend all ground disturbing activities that occur during wood pole replacement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:  
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Justin T. Moffett  
Justin Moffett, KEC-4

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