

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way Transmission Line Rebuild (B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines)

Project No. (if applicable): PP&A 2593

Project Manager: Jim Semrau

Location: Spokane County, WA

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 rebuild the 3.8 mile long Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way transmission line located in Spokane Valley, WA. The area where the transmission line is located is heavily developed and previously disturbed with much of the transmission line structures located in asphalt parking lots and residential areas. Approximately 68 wood pole structures will be replaced in kind. No other ground disturbance for the Vera Tap Rebuild project is planned or anticipated.

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/ Philip Smith for

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 16, 2015

Attachment:

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: Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way Transmission Line Rebuild

Project Site Description

The transmission line is located in heavily developed and previously disturbed commercial and residential areas with much of the transmission line structures located in asphalt parking lots and residential backyards.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> WA SHPO concurred with No Adverse Effect determination on October 6, 2014. Coeur D Alene, Kalispell, Spokane Tribes contacted - no response.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance; standard construction erosion control measures would be used as necessary.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal/special status plants present. Any residential yards disturbed would be resodded.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal/state special status species present as project is located in heavily developed and previously disturbed commercial and residential areas.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies will be impacted during this project.		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

No wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately 10 feet; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation:

None present.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

Replacement wood poles would not be noticeably different from existing poles.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Small amount of dust and vehicle emission from construction activity.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

Project is adjacent to a 4 lane road. During construction, flaggers, signs, and safety cones would be used.

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: Landowner notification, involvement and coordination has been conducted by BPA's realty and public affairs departments.

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

Signed: /s/ Philip Smith for
Michael A. Rosales, KEPR-Bell-1
Physical Scientist - Environment

Date: January 16, 2015