

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY15 Danger Pole Replacements – Longview District

Project No. (if applicable): PP&A #3168

Project Manager: Gary Beck

Location: Various transmission line corridors in BPA's Longview District

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace 15 deteriorating wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) on various transmission line corridors in BPA's Longview District.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

| Transmission Line/ROW | Structure(s) | Township | Range | Section(s) | County, State |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------|-------|------------|----------------------------|
| Ross-Vancouver Shipyard #1 | 3/2, 4/1 | 2N | 1E | 43, 61 | Clark County, Washington |
| Sifton-Ross #1 | 1/1 | 2N | 2E | 13 | Clark County, Washington |
| St. Helens-Allston #1 | 10/4, 11/1 | 6N | 2W | 25, 36 | Columbia County, Oregon |
| St. Johns-Keeler #2 | 4/8 | 1N | 1W | 9 | Multnomah County, Oregon |
| | 8/8, 8/9 | 1N | 1W | 19 | Washington County, Oregon |
| St. Johns-St. Helens #1 | 9/1, 9/4, 9/8 | 2N | 2W | 1 | Multnomah County, Oregon |
| | 10/1, 10/2 | 3N | 2W | 36 | Multnomah County, Oregon |
| | 18/4 | 4N | 2W | 23 | Columbia County, Oregon |
| Keeler-Oregon City #2 | 3/1 | 1N | 1W | 19 | Washington, County, Oregon |

Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Access road and landing maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

Structures being replaced are all in easements on privately-owned property. These structures are located within or adjacent to rural residential properties, commercial, city parks, and commercial forestry lands.

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the

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/ Phil Smith for
Benjamin Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 8, 2015

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist
Effects Determination

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: FY15 Longview District Danger Pole Replacements

Project Site Description

In-kind replacement of wood pole structures (poles and associated hardware) at various locations in BPA's Longview District. Original pole holes will be utilized and some auguring may occur. Minor access road and landing maintenance will occur at several locations to facilitate access to pole replacement locations.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Explanation:</u> According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The proposed action is considered to be routine access road maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage storm water run-off and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified. | | |
| 2. Geology and Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Excess material would be contoured to match surrounding terrain, track-walked, seeded and mulched.</p> | | |
| 3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Federal/state special-status plant species are not known to occur in the project area.</p> | | |
| 4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Federal/state special-status wildlife species are not known to occur in the project area.</p> | | |

5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)

Explanation: There are streams in the vicinity of the Project area, which may have resident fish species. Construction BMPs for erosion and sediment control must be properly installed and maintained.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: Structures 8/8 and 8/9 on the St. Johns-Keeler #2 corridor and structure 3/1 on the Keeler-Oregon City #2 line reside within and adjacent to a freshwater emergent wetland adjacent to Bethany Lake. The structures are within 300' on each side of a major roadway (SW West Union Road). Work is scheduled for the dry season (July-August) and temporary, floating wetland mats will be utilized to access each structure site to replace the existing poles and hardware. There will be no temporary or permanent fill within the identified wetland.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: Structures 3/2 and 4/1 on the Ross-Vancouver Shipyard #1 corridor both reside within City of Vancouver parks (Arnold Park and Burnt Bridge Creek Park). Structures will be replaced in-kind and no additional activities are required. Project schedules will be communicated to parks management to determine any need to notify park users or to delineate the project work site to temporarily restrict recreational use in these areas.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities will not alter or effect visual quality. Pole and hardware replacements are in-kind and will not be visibly different that existing structures.

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Fugitive dust or vehicle emissions generated during project implementation will be temporary and negligible.

11. Noise

Explanation: Temporary construction noise will be localized and occur during daylight hours. Operational noise of the transmission line will not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: Proposed action in existing ROW corridor 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: All vehicles and equipment will be cleaned of mud & debris prior to entering the worksites to prevent inadvertent spread of invasive species and/or noxious weeds.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Notifications via mailed letters are sent to all current landowners approximately 3-8 weeks prior to project initiation. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners/managers concerning the proposed project. Where required, permission to enter property (PEP) efforts and documentation has occurred.

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

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith for
Ben Tilley - KEP/Alvey

Date: April 8, 2015