

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Longview Osmose 2015 corrosion mitigation and repair project

**Project Manager:** Mark Kjelland TELM-TPP-3

**Location:** Cowlitz, Lewis, and Thurston Counties, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to repair deteriorating steel support structures where corrosion may be affecting the footings and structural integrity of the towers. Several structures located along the Chehalis-Covington No. 1, Longview-Chehalis No. 3, and Longview Chehalis No. 1 transmission lines will be repaired. A minimal amount of soil, which was placed as backfill when the tower was constructed, will be removed from around each of the tower legs to make the necessary observations and repairs. Work on individual tower legs may include; inspection to quantify the extent of corrosion at and below the ground line, cleaning of corroded sections, application of protective coatings, performing repairs where needed, and installation of cathodic protective systems.

**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

Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia

Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 2, 2015

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.

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### Project Site Description

The subject transmission line structures are located in Cowlitz, Lewis, and Thurston Counties, Washington, in Bonneville Power Administration's Olympia and Longview Maintenance Districts. The transmission line ROW corridors cross public and privately-owned lands that include industrial forestlands and rural residential property.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><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 maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, and will be limited to maintenance within the existing structure footprint. Soil to be removed around each tower leg placed as backfill when the structure was constructed. Soil will be removed by hand digging to a depth of about 3-feet. No new landing or access road construction is planned or anticipated. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</p> <p>An inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Storm water BMPs will be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No species with special-status are known to occur at the sites. Disturbance will be localized to the tower legs in previously disturbed soils.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A no effect determination for ESA species and critical habitats was completed for the project.</p>		

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



Explanation: A no effect determination addressing ESA aquatic species and ESUs was completed for the project. The sites do not include any water bodies or nearby connections to any waterbodies, including any fish bearing streams. Any potentially affected drainage area will be protected with appropriate storm water BMPs.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are involved in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project does not involve any drilling or deep excavations. All spills will be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The property is already used as an electrical transmission facility and does not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project is located within the existing BPA right of ways. No new structures will be added and existing structures will not be modified in appearance.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance will be limited to general construction equipment activities and be for a short duration.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Completion of this project will increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

### 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:

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#### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Land owners will be notified prior to work. Work to occur at select structures within existing BPA ROW on private forestland and rural lands. Work is unobtrusive and involves minimal hand-digging around structure legs for inspection and manual repair of leg extensions.

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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  
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia  
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: July 2, 2015