

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Olympia District, Olympia TLM, 2017 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project Manager: Jim Semrau, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, 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:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace deteriorating wood pole structures and any associated hardware and guys at the above locations in BPA's Olympia TLM Maintenance District. For all structures, the work will include removing the existing wood pole structures (and guy wires if present) and replacing them with in-kind in the same location.

Where needed, the project also includes improvements to existing access roads and landings associated with the above-mentioned transmission line rights-of-way that currently inhibit access at the specified locations for routine maintenance. Dependent on the structure location and access road conditions, the project may include surface improvements of existing road surfaces and landings (blading & rocking) as well as improvements and in-kind replacements of existing drainage features.

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

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section
Fairmount-Port Angeles No. 1	6/7	29N	3W	13
	10/6	29N	3W	4
Olympia-South Elma No. 1	2/2	18N	2W	29
	3/5	18N	3W	25
	4/4	18N	3W	24
	4/7, 4/8	18N	3W	23
	9/8	18N	4W	24
	10/3	18N	4W	25
Olympia-Shelton No. 1	3/5	18N	2W	30
	4/8	18N	3W	23
	5/1	18N	3W	23
	9/7, 9/9, 10/3	18N	3W	5
	10/7	19N	3W	32
	10/10	19N	3W	32
	11/2	19N	3W	30
	12/2	19N	3W	30
	14/2, 14/3	19N	3W	18
	14/4, 14/5	19N	3W	7
	16/1	19N	4W	1
	17/5	20N	4W	36

	17/7, 17/8	20N	4W	25
	19/8	20N	4W	13
Olympia-Shelton No. 2	15/1	19N	4W	12
Port Angeles-Sappho No. 1	20/3	31N	9W	34
	21/6	31N	9W	33
	41/8	30N	12W	28
Shelton-Fairmount No. 1	6/7	21N	4W	27
	30/6	24N	3W	11
	45/6	26N	2W	1
Shelton-Fairmount No. 2	18/7	23N	4W	35
	21/6	23N	4W	13
	32/4	24N	3W	1
	45/8	26N	2W	1
	58/2, 58/4	28N	1W	6

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/ Joseph Sharpe for
Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 25, 2017

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

All work would be done in existing managed rights-of-way that cross Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), private agricultural, private industrial, private timber, and rural residential lands.

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> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project APEs. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. Washington DAHP agreed with an effects determination from the survey report on 2/21/17, Log No.: 20176-01-00003-BPA. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. Structure 16/1 of the Olympia-Shelton No. 1 is located within a seasonally wet area. To protect the sensitive area, swamp mats would be placed to access the structure location.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor; no vegetation would be removed and no special-status species are present. At the Olympia-Shelton No. 1, 16/1 structure location, up to approximately 0.5 acre of facultative vegetation may be temporarily compacted by the placement of swamp mats. No long-term effects are anticipated.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor with little wildlife habitat; no mapped special-status species or designated habitats are present.		

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



Explanation: None of the project sites are located near any streams or waterways. Appropriate storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding areas from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities.

No FEMA-mapped floodplains are mapped within the project site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: Based on a site visit in April, site conditions at the Olympia-Shelton No. 1, 16/1 structure location may be wet. EGIS does not show this structure to be located within a wetland boundary. Temporary fill, swamp mats, would be used to cross the saturated soils and protect the sensitive area. This action is considered a maintenance exemption and thus, no Federal permits are required. Swamp mats are anticipated to be in place for approximately 2 days.

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. All spills would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The project locations are confined to the existing transmission line ROW corridors. Surrounding land uses include Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), private agricultural, private industrial, private timber, and rural residential. Project locations do not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities would not alter or effect visual quality. Structure replacements are in-kind and would not be visibly different from the existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



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

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known. Completion of this project would 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Notifications via mailed letters have been 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.

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

Signed: /s/ Joseph Sharpe for
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: April 25, 2017