

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: 2017 BPA/DNR Culvert Replacement: Monroe – Custer No.1

PP&A No.: 3325

Project Manager: Rick Ross, TELF-TPP-3

Location: Skagit County, WA

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace an existing culvert on an access road stream crossing on Monroe – Custer No.1 that presents a barrier to fish passage. This improvement will be made on BPA easement access roads within Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owned and managed lands. BPA will make this improvement by installing a new fish friendly CMP arch culvert at the stream crossing. The current stream crossing does not meet DNR fish passage standards that went into effect in 2015. Culvert replacement will also include road regrading to improve the stream crossing. The stream will be regraded or reconstructed after culvert removal. The new culvert is designed to meet the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) *Design of Road Culverts for Fish Passage* standards, as well as standards provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and was reviewed and approved by DNR engineers. The work would occur in August – September 2017.

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/ Caitlin Colson

Caitlin SH Colson

Environmental Engineer

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 20, 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.

Proposed Action: Culvert Replacement Project: Monroe-Custer

Project Site Description

The project is located in the Lower Skagit watershed, Skagit County, Washington. The site is located in a mix-use temperate forest, on a level or nearly level existing access road. The site is located on land managed by DNR for recreation, timber sales, and preservation. A residential area is located approximately 0.25 miles from the site. A perennial unnamed stream (17110007000954) runs through the site. The stream flows into Hansen Creek approximately 1.5 miles downstream. The stream is approximately 4.5 miles upstream of the Skagit River. The stream has an approximately 8.4ft ordinary high water mark at the project location. The township, section and range information for the project site is detailed below:

Township		Range		Section	County	Ownership
36	N	5	E	32	Skagit, WA	State of Washington

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"/>

Explanation: A survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project site. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the work sites. DAHP concurrence on the Areas of Potential Affect was received on 5/6/2015; concurrence on the cultural report was received on 9/21/2015.

2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed work will cause soil disturbance in the immediate work area. Construction and excavation will take place within 200 ft of the stream crossings. Excavated materials will be temporarily placed in a location where there will be low to no risk of direct sediment runoff into known drainage until they are hauled off for removal. Disturbed soils will be re-sloped / graded and will have seed and straw spread throughout once construction is complete. Stormwater best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and post-construction.

3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: There are no special-status plant species present. Work is to be conducted in an existing transmission access road. Impacts to plants and vegetation in the work area will be minimized during construction by establishing work areas and limiting ground disturbance. Disturbed soils will be re-sloped / graded and will have seed and straw spread throughout once construction is complete.

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: There are no special-status or designated habitat present in the work areas. The work would be performed in the cleared and maintained transmission access road. Impacts to wetland habitat due to ground disturbance will be minimized and restored upon project completion. The soils will be regraded and revegetated as necessary. Please review the accompanying Effects Determination Memo for the project if additional information is required.

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



Explanation: An unnamed stream flows through the work area. Steelhead and Chinook are documented in the waterway. BPA has consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding potential adverse effects to endangered anadromous fish. BPA would implement the following measures during construction, as detailed in *Endangered Species Act Section 7 Programmatic Conference and Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species to Administer Maintenance or Rebuild Projects for Transmission Line and Road Access Actions Authorized or Carried Out by the Bonneville Power Administration in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho*, Section 1.3.1.2 *Project Design Criteria – General Construction Measures*:

- In-water work timing (bullet number 11), August 1st – September 15th for Skagit County
- Fish capture and release (12)
- Fish passage (13)
- Construction discharge water (15)
- Temporary access roads and paths (16)
- Temporary stream crossings (17)
- Equipment, vehicles, power tools (18)
- Site layout and flagging (19)
- Staging, storage, stockpile areas (20)
- Pesticide/preservative treated wood (25)
- Erosion control (26)
- Hazardous material safety (27)
- Dust abatement (29)
- Work area isolation (30)
- Site restoration (31)
- Revegetation (32)

Additionally, an Action Completion Report and a Fish Salvage Report would be filed at the completion of the project.

Please review the accompanying Effects Determination Memo for the project if additional information is required.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the work site.

Work area isolation BMPs will be in place to prevent erosion and turbid waters from entering neighboring waters.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The work would not involve new groundwater wells or ground disturbance that would impact aquifers.

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



Explanation: The work is on an existing access road and will not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The proposed work would be conducted in the transmission right-of-way, adjacent to existing transmission structures and access roads. Visual quality would not be significantly impacted by the project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would create temporary dust and vehicle emissions due to construction; however, no significant impacts would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project would create temporary noise due to construction; however, no significant impacts would occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. The project would not have significant adverse impacts on 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project site is located on BPA easement access roads within Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owned and managed lands. The culvert design was reviewed and approved by DNR engineers. BPA's responsibility to make these improvements is outlined in the *Memorandum of Agreement between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy for Management Impacts to State Lands from BPA Transmission Line and Access Road Easements*, June 2014.

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

Signed: /s/ Caitlin Colson
Caitlin SH Colson, EPI-4

Date: June 20, 2017