

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Garrison-Taft No. 1 & 2 Span 9/1, 102/1, and 110/2 Impairment Remedy

Project No.: 3,889

Project Manager: Ryan Martin, TELF-TPP-3

Location: Granite and Mineral County, MT

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to remedy three impairments along the Garrison-Taft No. 1 & 2 corridor ahead on line from structures 9/1, 102/1, and 110/2. Impairments occur when the distance between a surface and the overhead conductor is not sufficient to meet safety and reliability standards. The proposed project would occur within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Granite County, MT and the Lolo National Forest in Mineral County, MT.

BPA is proposing to repair the three impairments along the Garrison-Taft No. 1 & 2 corridor by installing fencing and signage ahead on line from structures 9/1 and 102/1 and excavating earth to mitigate the impairment ahead on line from structure 110/2. The sites would be accessed using existing access roads.

The signage for the impairment remedies in line mile 9 and 102 will be installed by hammering sign posts into place. The excavation in line mile 110 is along the access road itself. The impairment would be excavated using a small tractor or dozer, and the road reconstructed to connect back with the existing road. Ground disturbance may occur outside of the impaired area along the road, to re-grade the road.

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/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist

Concur:

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

Date July 25, 2018

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 proposed impairments project, located in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Lolo National Forest, would install signage and excavate soil and rock.

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cultural survey was conducted at all Garrison-Taft span impairment locations. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by undertaking. MT SHPO concurred with BPA's No Historic Properties Affected determination for all Garrison-Taft impairment project locations listed in this CX on July 16, 2018. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed would be limited to the existing road prism. In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the SHPO and the environmental project lead would be notified. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would involve excavation of less than 5 cu. yds. of soil ahead on line from structure 110/2. The excavated material would be deposited in the right of way on site. Erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to stabilize soil during and after construction.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/special-status plants present within the project area. Disturbed areas would be reseeded as necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Lolo National Forest has provided a seed mix plan for re-vegetation. Additional measures, including ensuring that all equipment used to support this project will be thoroughly washed prior to entering the National Forest System (NFS) lands to prevent the transfer and spread of noxious invasive weeds, will be necessary. 		

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

Explanation: No known federal/special-status wildlife present within the project area.

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

Explanation: There is no proposed activity involving a perennial water body or any designated bull trout habitat.

6. Wetlands ☒ ☐

Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the work sites

7. Groundwater and Aquifers ☒ ☐

Explanation: The proposed work is not located near any known aquifers

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas ☒ ☐

Explanation: The work is on existing right-of-way and access roads and would not impact land use

9. Visual Quality ☒ ☐

Explanation: Proposed action is on existing access roads and would not alter or effect visual quality.

10. Air Quality ☐ ☒

Explanation: Any fugitive dust or vehicle emissions generated during project implementation would be temporary and negligible. Water and other BMPs would be used to minimize fugitive dust and sediment erosion at the project sites.

11. Noise ☒ ☐

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety ☒ ☐

Explanation: Proposed action is on existing right-of-way and access roads and would 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Coordination with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in November 2017. Jeff Ingals, a Natural Resource Specialist, was notified of the planned work. Coordination with the Lolo National Forest occurred in February 2018. Erin Phelps, the District Ranger, was notified of the planned work.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti
 Michelle Colletti
 Physical Scientist – EPR-4

Date: July 25, 2018