

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: 2019 Schultz-Raver No. 1 Goat Peak Repair Project

PP&A No.: 4209

Project Manager: Matt Harvey, TFCF-Covington

Location: King County, WA

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) proposes to repair damaged goat peaks on structures 61/3, 61/4, 61/5 along the Schultz-Raver No. 1 500 kV (kilovolts) transmission line. All repairs would be done via helicopter. No ground disturbance to include new roads or landings would be necessary. An existing landing would be utilized for the helicopter landing zone.

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, Jul. 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/ Chad Browning
Chad A. *Browning*
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: July 3, 2019

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

Proposed maintenance activities are confined to the area immediately surrounding structures 61/3, 61/4, and 61/5 on the Schultz-Raver No. 1 500kV transmission line. The project area is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Enumclaw, WA and approximately 6 miles southeast of Howard Hanson Dam. Land use in the surrounding area is forested on land owned by Tacoma Watershed. Elevation (above mean sea level) within the project area ranges from approximately 2,400 to 2,515 feet.

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> No ground-disturbing work is planned for this project. All work would be done via helicopter and a small ground support team from existing access roads and landings.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing work is planned for this project.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No Federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area. There is no ground-disturbing work and no tree removal planned for this project; and thus, no impact to plants.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No tree removal, ground-disturbing, or in-water work is proposed. Repair activities would be completed via helicopter. Noise disturbance by the helicopter would be limited daily and total no more than 4 days. The project area is more than 3.5 miles from the nearest designated spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work or ground-disturbing activities are proposed for this project.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work or ground-disturbing activities are proposed for this project.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Groundwater would not be affected by proposed repair activities; no new groundwater wells or use of groundwater proposed.

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



Explanation: No land use changes are proposed; no specially-designated areas have been identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Repair of goat peaks would be in same location and appear similar to current damaged goat peaks.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar air quality impacts during project construction are expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise from the helicopter would be temporary and localized. The repairs are expected to take no more than 1 week. There are no residences nearby.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities would not impact human health or safety. In fact, the proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

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: Notification letters would be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to Tacoma Watershed prior to work.

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

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning
Chad Browning, EPR-COVINGTON
Environmental Scientist

Date: July 3, 2019