

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Snohomish County PUD Impairment Removal Project

PP&A No.: 4191

Project Manager: Clifford Wilson - TELP-TPP-3

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6

Description of the Proposed Action: A survey of the 500kV Monroe-Custer No. 1 transmission line resulted in the identification of a Snohomish County PUD (SCPUD) distribution line that is an unsafe distance away from the BPA transmission line. In certain weather conditions, there is a risk of electrical arcing due to the reduced clearance. BPA proposes to partially compensate SCPUD to move the attachment point of their distribution line to a location approximately seven feet lower on the same wood utility pole. Then, the top seven feet of the pole would be cut and removed. The work would be done using conventional utility equipment and techniques, and would take less than one day sometime in the summer of 2019.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn
Physical Scientist
Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: May 28, 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

BPA proposes to partially compensate SCPUD to move the attachment point of their distribution line to a location approximately seven feet lower on the same wood utility pole. Then, the top seven feet of the pole would be cut and removed. The work would be done using conventional utility equipment and techniques.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project does not include ground excavation. All work would occur on the structure itself, and modifying features would not adversely impact the integrity of historic resources. This undertaking has no potential to effect historic properties. No further review under the National Historic Preservation Act is required.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would take place on the surface or shoulder of an existing driveway. Geology and soils within and around the project site were likely previously disturbed by landowner activities. Although the proposed project does not involve excavation or grading of soils, minor soil compaction may occur due to vehicles driving on the access road and around the project site.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status plants in the project area; therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on protected plant species.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species or habitats are present at the project site; therefore, the project would have no impacts to state special-status or ESA-listed wildlife.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is approximately a half-mile from the nearest waterbody, floodplain, or listed fish species; therefore, the project would have no impacts to these resources.</p>		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not impact wetlands.</p>		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project does not involve any ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater and aquifers.

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



Explanation: The project is on private rural residential property. There would be no change to land use at the project location.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The project would not significantly alter visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Exhaust from utility equipment may temporarily reduce air quality in the immediate project area.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts to human health or safety are expected as a result of project activities. The proposed project would correct a potentially unsafe situation on the Monroe-Custer No. 1 transmission line.

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 SCPUD distribution pole is located on private property. SCPUD would be responsible for landowner coordination.

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

Signed: /s/ Oden Jahn
Oden Jahn
Physical Scientist

Date: May 28, 2019