

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Filburt Tap 115-kV Transmission Line Reconnection

**Project No.:** N0733

**Project Manager:** Jim Turner – TFLF-Chemawa

**Location:** Washington County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers; B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to disconnect the conductor at structure 1/11 of their Filburt Tap to Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 115-kV transmission line. BPA would then reconnect the conductor to the City of Forest Grove's (Forest Grove) new structure 1/11. Forest Grove's new structure 1/11 is the last structure of the Filburt Tap line before it enters Forest Grove's substation. Any excess conductor from the reconnection would be used for the jumpers and/or recycled and/or disposed of. BPA would transfer ownership of the existing structure 1/11 and conductor span into Filburt Substation to Forest Grove (also the underlying landowner).

**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/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 23, 2020

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:** Filburt Tap 115-kV Transmission Line Reconnection

## Project Site Description

The project site is located in the City of Forest Grove, just north of the Tualatin Valley Highway, in Township 1 South, Range 3 West, Section 6. The site is owned by the City of Forest Grove and also contains their substation that taps off of the BPA transmission system to serve Forest Grove and surrounding areas. The site is flat with grass and trees. The trees have been strategically planted by the city to screen residential neighborhoods to the north and east and an industrial area to the west.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A BPA Historian and BPA Contract Archaeologist reviewed the reconnection work, the relinquishment of existing structure 1/11 and conductor, and determined there is no potential to effect historic resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground or vegetation disturbance would occur.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur. Wildlife using the area at the time of project activities may temporarily scatter. The site is adjacent to a busy highway and mixed industrial and residential uses. Project noise and activity would not be out of character with surrounding land uses.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish occur on or near project site.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands occur on or near project site.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		

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



Explanation: Utility actions are a permitted use at the project site. There are no specially-designated areas in the vicinity.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Project actions would not change the visual quality of the area as it is presently in utility use.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance that would generate dust would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: See Wildlife above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: BPA crews are well-trained and fully capable of performing project activities. BPA safety requirements would be followed.

**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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA is coordinating closely with the City of Forest Grove.

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

Signed: /s/ Carol Leiter  
Carol Leiter, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: March 23, 2020