

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Partial Funding of Weyerhaeuser Bridge Installation

Project Manager: Chad Caldwell—TPCV-Olympia

Location: Grays Harbor County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide partial funding for a Weyerhaeuser project, in which Weyerhaeuser would replace a deteriorating glulam bridge with a new 16-foot by 90-foot-long steel bridge, near BPA's Satsop-Cosmopolis-1 transmission right-of-way easement on Weyerhaeuser property. The bridge is used by BPA maintenance workers to access BPA's right-of-way. Installation of the bridge would require new concrete sills to be installed and part of the existing road would be removed to accommodate the increased length of the new bridge. The existing pilings would be reused for the new bridge. No instream work would occur during this project.

Weyerhaeuser submitted a Forest Practices application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for this project and received an approval from DNR on April 12, 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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 22, 2019

Attachment: 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 project location is near BPA's Satsop-Cosmopolis-1 transmission right-of-way, in Grays Harbor County, Washington (Section 28, Township 17 North, Range 8 West). The subject parcel is owned by Weyerhaeuser and is used for timber production.

The replacement bridge crosses over Little North River, which is in the Little North River Watershed. There are no wetlands at the project location.

The vegetation in the project area consists of Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), alder (*Alnus rubra*), elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Indian plum (*Oemlaria cerasiformis*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), swordfern (*Polypodium munitum*), trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), claytonia (*Claytonia perfoliata*), cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), plantain (*Plantago major*), horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.), devils club (*Oplopanax horridus*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and others.

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> On December 15, 2018, an initiation letter with an Area of Potential Effect (APE) map was sent to the following consulting parties: Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, and Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). On December 17, 2018, DAHP concurred with the proposed APE. BPA Cultural staff surveyed the project area and determined that the project would have no adverse effect to historical properties. Determination letters were sent to the consulting parties on January 18, 2019. DAHP concurred with the determination on January 22, 2019. The Shoalwater Bay Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation did not respond.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Weyerhaeuser would be responsible for implementing best management practices to prevent erosion and sedimentation.</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. Weyerhaeuser would restore the vegetation at the site after implementation of the project.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status species within a half mile radius of the project area. Marbled murrelets are known to occur over 0.5 miles south of the project location, but the project area does not contain large nesting trees that murrelets typically inhabit during breeding season. The project would have no impacts to special-status wildlife.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Explanation: The project is crossing the Little North River, which is in a floodplain. Weyerhaeuser is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits to construct the bridge within the floodplain. The project does not involve inwater work, dewatering, or fish capture.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: There are no wetlands at the site that would be impacted by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: There would be no changes to the land use at this location and there are no specially-designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The project would not change the visual quality of the location.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: There are no residences within a half mile radius from the project location. Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: The project would improve the safety of BPA workers by providing a more structurally sound bridge to access the BPA's ROW.

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: Weyerhaeuser owns the land on which the project would occur.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger—ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: April 22, 2019