

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Ellensburg TLM District FY19 Wood Pole Replacements

**PP&A No.:** 3931

**Project Manager:** Meadow Nelson – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Chelan County, Washington.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to perform in-kind replacement of wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along several transmission lines. Replacement poles would be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-augered to assure proper depth placement. Minor maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings is scheduled to be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of waterbars and drain dips. Refer to the table below for wood pole replacement locations.

Line	Structure	TRS	County, State
Columbia-Valhalla No. 1	1/7, 2/2, 2/3	T21N R22E SEC20	Chelan, WA
	2/5, 2/6, 3/3, 3/4	T21N R22E SEC17	Chelan, WA
	3/9, 4/1	T21N R22E SEC8	Chelan, WA
Columbia-Valhalla No. 2	3/3, 3/4	T21N R22E SEC17	Chelan, WA
	3/9, 4/1	T21N R22E SEC8	Chelan, WA
	4/6	T21N R22E SEC5	Chelan, WA
	5/10	T22N R22E SEC31	Chelan, WA

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**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/ Emma Reinemann*  
Emma Reinemann  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

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

Date: June 13, 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 routine maintenance activities would be conducted along the Columbia-Valhalla No. 1 and Columbia-Valhalla No. 2 transmission lines. Proposed maintenance activities would be performed in the existing transmission line right of ways and access road easements which are located in rural, non-developed areas and/or in rural, agricultural areas.

### 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural survey was performed at all wood pole replacement locations, associated landings, and proposed road improvement locations. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. DAHP concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to historic properties determination on May 9, 2019.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; DAHP; and the appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacements, landing improvements, and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal/state special-status plants or habitat present.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal/state special-status species or habitat present.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: Listed fish species may inhabit waterbodies that are within ½-mile of the transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species; therefore, there would be “No Effect” to listed fish species or aquatic habitat.

6. Wetlands



Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

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



Explanation: No change in land use. No specially-designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right of ways. Replacement of wood poles and associated components would be in kind and replaced in the same location.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be a small amount of dust and vehicle emissions from construction activity.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Realty personnel would perform landowner notifications within 30-days prior to project initiation and any concerns regarding proposed transmission line maintenance activities would be addressed.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann  
Emma Reinemann – EPR-4  
Physical Scientist - Environmental

Date: June 13, 2019