

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Steel Pole and Transmission Line Installation in BPA Right-of-way at Maple Valley Substation

**Project No.:** 20180241

**Project Manager:** Charlene Belt TERR-3

**Location:** King County, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B.4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to allow Puget Sound Energy to install a steel pole and run double circuit 230kV transmission lines from their Talbot Hill Substation to the northwest side of the BPA Maple Valley Substation in King County, WA. The 230 kV transmission lines would run approximately 100 feet from Puget Sound Energy's Talbot Hill Substation to the new steel pole 0/2 in the BPA Right-of-way adjacent to Maple Valley Substation. The line would continue north approximately 500 feet to new Puget Sound Energy pole 0/3 on Puget Sound Energy property. The area of BPA-owned Right-of-way is located on the northwest side of the Maple Valley Substation and is adjacent to Puget Sound Energy's Talbot Hill Substation. Puget Sound Energy also has an existing easement from BPA at this location. The site is located in Township 23 North, Range 05 East, Section 20.

**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/ Christopher H. Furey  
Christopher H. Furey  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: May 16, 2019

# 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:** Steel Pole and Transmission Line Installation in BPA Right-of-way at Maple Valley Substation

## Project Site Description

The pole and transmission line installation would be on maintained BPA Right-of-way just outside the fence line on the northwest side of the Maple Valley Substation. The project area consists of the access road and the grassy area next to the Maple Valley Substation that is managed for low-growing vegetation. The surrounding topography consists of generally flat areas with neighboring parcels comprised of the Puget Sound Energy Talbot Hill Substation, developed suburban home sites, and some forested greenway natural area. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. A shrub wetland is located over 3,000 feet northeast of the project site. Cedar Creek is located approximately 2,400 feet to the north.

## 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> BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the installation of the steel pole and transmission lines do not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be some soil disturbance for installation of the steel pole. Some digging is expected for the new post. All work is occurring in the established BPA Right-of-way.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would be occurring in the BPA Right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. There are no listed or special-status species present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The work would be in established BPA Right-of-way. Installation of the steel pole is expected to occur during daytime hours with limited to no effect to any listed or special-status species.		
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> Cedar Creek is approximately 2,400 feet to the northwest of the project location. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be near Cedar Creek.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project site. A shrub wetland is located over 3,000 feet northeast of the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The shallow digging for the post installation would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: There would be no impact to the Right-of-way located next to Maple Valley substation.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No direct impact.

### **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 is in coordination with Puget Sound Energy.

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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/ Christopher H. Furey  
Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 16, 2019