

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Raise Ostrander-Pearl Tower

**Project No.:** P03016

**Project Manager:** Lisa Casey TELP-TPP-3; Mrya Lovell – TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** Clackamas County, OR

**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:**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to raise the Ostrander-Pearl No. 1 transmission line including raising the height of structure 10/6 to allow for the City of Oregon City to build an extension of Meyers Road across BPA's right-of-way. For context, Oregon City is planning a road construction project to connect two segments of Meyers Road, passing under the Ostrander-Pearl No. 1 500-kV and Big Eddy-Chemawa No. 1 230-kV lines. The road extension by the City of Oregon City would be passing underneath the Ostrander – Pearl No.1 between structures 10/6 and 11/1 and the Big Eddy – Chemawa No. 1 transmission line between structures 81/6 and 82/1.

Structure 10/6 on the Ostrander-Pearl No. 1 transmission line would be moved 110 feet closer to structure 10/5 with new footings at a depth of 9 feet and the structure would be raised from its current 60-foot tower height to an 80-foot tower height. The old footings for structure 10/6 would be cut one foot below grade and removed. Structure 10/5 and 11/1 would have traveler pulleys temporarily installed for purposes of raising the transmission line. Trucks, cranes, and specialized equipment would be used in the raising of the transmission line. There may be over 7,000 square feet (0.16 acre) of ground disturbance for the tower raising project so erosion and sediment control practices would be used. All work would occur within the BPA right-of-way.

**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/ Katey C. Grange  
Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 22, 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:** Raise Ostrander-Pearl Transmission Tower

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## Project Site Description

The project is located in Township 3 South, Range 2 East, Section 9. The raising of the Ostrander-Pearl Transmission Tower project would be on BPA right-of-way with low growing grass and vegetation adjacent to Clackamas Community College. The surrounding topography consists of flat areas at approximately 400 feet above sea level with neighboring parcels comprised of parking areas primarily for the community college, roads, some forested and farmed land, and developed suburban home sites.

A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos revealed possible wetlands or waterbodies near the site. No wetlands or waterbodies are located within the project work areas. Some wetland areas are located near structure 10/4 outside of the right-of-way. Other wetlands are near 11/1 and 11/2 of the Ostrander-Pearl transmission line that would be avoided during implementation of the project. A freshwater pond is located over 1100 feet southwest of the site for the 10/6 structure raise, and Caulfield Creek is identified approximately 900 feet to the southwest of the 10/6 structure.

## 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 BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the raising of the Ostrander-Pearl transmission structure would have no adverse effect to historic or cultural resources. OR SHPO, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were sent the no adverse effect determination on December 12, 2020. The OR SHPO concurred on January 17, 2020.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There would be some soil disturbance for movement of the tower to a raised height and for the placement of the new footings for structure 10/6. All work is occurring in the established BPA right-of-way. There may be over 7,000 square feet (0.16 acre) of ground disturbance for the tower raising so erosion and sediment control practices would be used.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, as necessary, prior to any vegetation and ground disturbing activities. Vegetative areas disturbed during the raising of the Ostrander-Pearl structure would be reseeded, as necessary, with a BPA-approved seed mix to stabilize the disturbed areas.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would be occurring in the BPA right-of-way that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation and some vegetation may be cut or removed for installation of the project. There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA)- listed or special-status species present.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: The work would be in established BPA right-of-way. No trees would be removed and the site is not identified to provide nesting sites. Installation of the raised tower is expected to occur during daytime hours with no effect expected to ESA-listed and special-status species and limited to no effect to non-listed species from noise and equipment presence.

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



Explanation: Caulfield Creek is identified to be approximately 900 feet to the southwest of the project location. A freshwater pond is located over 1100 feet southwest of the project site and connects with Caulfield Creek. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be near Caulfield Creek or the freshwater pond.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present at the 10/6 tower site. Wetland areas are located near structures 10/4, 11/1, and 11/2 of the Ostrander-Pearl transmission line that would be avoided during implementation of the project.

Note: Utilize storm water planning and best management practices for dust and erosion control to avoid impacts to nearby wetland areas.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers from the installation of the raised transmission tower.

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



Explanation: There would be no impact to the right-of-way by the raised transmission line. Potential subsequent activities not involving BPA actions include a road extension through the right-of-way and expanded parking areas for the community college.

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 from the transmission line project.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No direct impact. Flagging and signage would be used on Highway 213 for traffic notification.

### **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 Clackamas County College and the landowners for this project.

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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: January 22, 2020