

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Grand Coulee – Chief Joseph No. 2 Access Road Maintenance

**PP&A No.:** 4,038

**Project Manager:** Donna Martin

**Location:** Douglas County, WA

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to perform routine road maintenance to approximately 2.69 linear miles of existing access road for the Grand Coulee – Chief Joseph No. 2 transmission line, between towers 31/8 and 32/4 in Douglas County, WA. Access road work would include replacing 1 culvert, adding 2 waterbars, and performing minor blading, shaping, grading, and adding rock to approximately 10,000 feet of existing serviceable access and structure spur roads. Additionally, BPA would construct new spur roads to structures 31/7 and 32/2; approximately 375 linear feet in length. General equipment used for this type of project includes: graders, rollers, excavators, and dump trucks.

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

**Table 1. Access Road Maintenance Location**

Structures	Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership	USGS Quad Name
Grand Coulee – Chief Joseph No. 2				
31/1 to 31/7	T29N R26E Section 30	Douglas, WA	Private	Coleman Hill
31/8 to 31/9	T29N R25E Section 25	Douglas, WA	Private	Chief Joseph Dam
32/1 to 32/4	T29N R36E Section 36	Douglas, WA	DSL	Chief Joseph Dam

**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/ Michelle Colletti*  
Michelle Colletti  
Physical Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: June 19, 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.

**Proposed Action:** Grand Coulee – Chief Joseph No. 2 Access Road Maintenance

### Project Site Description

The proposed access road maintenance is located in eastern Washington, within undeveloped land, on private and BLM lands.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural survey was conducted for the Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No.2 Access Road Improvements. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by undertaking. Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's No Historic Properties Affected determination for the Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No.2 Access Road Improvement locations listed in this CX on May 06, 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from the work sites. Access road maintenance performed shall be limited to the existing road prism.</li><li>• In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the Washington DAHP and the Environmental Project Lead would be notified.</li></ul>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground disturbance would be limited to the existing road prism and access road easement width.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, as necessary, prior to any vegetation and ground-disturbing activities.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Any vegetative areas disturbed during access road improvement activities would be reseeded, as necessary, with a BPA-approved seed mix to stabilize the disturbed areas.</li></ul>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal/state special-status plant species are present within the project area. The project would occur in previously disturbed areas and would not impact non-listed plants species.</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal/state special-status wildlife species are present within the project area. The project would occur in previously disturbed areas and would not impact non-listed wildlife species.</p>		

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



Explanation: No instream work would be performed. No effect to aquatic species and/or habitat.

Note: Erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, as necessary, prior to any vegetation and ground-disturbing activities to protect any downstream water resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands were identified in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No groundwater or aquifers would be affected by the proposed work.

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



Explanation: No specially-designated areas would be impacted by the projects. All areas of disturbance would be stabilized and seeded at completion of the project.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Minimal and insignificant changes to the visual quality would occur as a result of the proposed project work.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emission due to project work.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities would not affect human health or safety. The proposed project would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will reduce outage times and maintain reliable power to 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

Explanation, if necessary:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Realty would make the necessary landowner notifications.

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requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti  
Michelle Colletti  
Physical Scientist

Date: June 19, 2019