

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Grand Coulee-Okanagan No. 2 Urgent Cross-arm Replacement

PP&A No.: 4178

Project Manager: Ryan Piche

Location: Okanagan County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace cross-arms on 13 wood pole structures along the Grand Coulee-Okanagan No. 2 transmission line that are in urgent need of replacement. The existing wooden cross-arms would be replaced with steel cross-arms. To conduct the work, linemen would access the structures with a line truck and change out the cross-arms using the truck's bucket. No road work, digging, or ground disturbance would be required, except when needed to set and level the line truck's outriggers.

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/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts
Biological Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: May 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

The proposed project area, located in eastern Washington, consists of shrub steppe and rangeland.

Township, Range, Section Number, County, and Ownership information

Transmission Line	Township	Range	Section	Ownership
Grand Coulee-Okanagan No. 2	31N	28E	18, 20, 29	Confederated Tribes of the Colville

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> As the proposed project is located on The Confederated Tribes of The Colville Reservation, BPA sent an Area of Potential Effect map and project description to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) on April 25, 2019. The THPO responded on May 13, 2019, agreeing with the project's potential negligible impacts and relaying that he had no additional concerns or issues.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project is anticipated to cause very minimal ground disturbance. During construction, all appropriate Best Management Practices would be used to implement site-specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area consists of shrub steppe habitat in an existing transmission line Right-of-Way (ROW). Little ground disturbance is anticipated and no vegetation would be removed. Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded with a geographic and climate-appropriate seed mix.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not impact any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project area does not contain a path to fish streams.</p>		

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| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands occur within the proposed project area. | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction. | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or safety. | | |

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: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts
Laura Roberts, EPI-4
Biological Scientist

Date: May 13, 2019