

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



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

**Project No. (if applicable):** 4194

**Project Manager:** Lisa Casey – TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Yamhill, and Washington Counties, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to perform in-kind replacement of 15 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 or adjacent to 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 to ensure safe access to Boyer-Tillamook structures 2/2 and 3/1. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of waterbars and drain dips. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Refer to the table below for wood pole replacement locations.

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS	County
Boyer-Tillamook No. 1	2/2	T6S R8W SEC6	Yamhill
	3/1	T6S R9W SEC1	
	10/4	T5S R9W SEC4	Tillamook
	16/1	T4S R10W SEC12	
	19/6, 20/2	T3S R9W SEC29	
	25/6, 25/7	T2S R9W SEC33	
Carlton-Tillamook No. 1	17/3, 17/5	T2S R6W SEC33	Yamhill
	34/10	T2S R9W SEC10	Tillamook
Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1	1/7	T6S R3W SEC36	Marion
Keeler-Forest Grove No. 2	7/5	T1N R3W SEC23	Washington
	10/6	T1N R3W SEC32	
Salem-Grand Ronde No. 1	17/2	T6S R6W SEC26	Polk

The proposed action would 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/ Katey Grange*

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 29, 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.

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### Project Site Description

Proposed routine maintenance activities would be conducted along the Boyer-Tillamook No. 1, Carlton-Tillamook No. 1, Chemawa-Salem Alumina No. 1, Keeler-Forest Grove No. 2, and Salem-Grand Ronde No. 1 transmission lines located in the BPA Chemawa district in Oregon. Proposed maintenance activities would be performed in the existing transmission line right-of-ways and access road easements located on privately owned land. Land uses in the project area include rural residential, agriculture, and timber. No wetlands or waterbodies are present within the project work areas. The nearest waterbody would be approximately 350 feet from project workspace.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p><b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA initiated Area of Potential Effect (APE) consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, U.S. Forest Service – Siuslaw National Forest, and the City of McMinnville Planning Department. The project area was surveyed by a BPA archaeologist. No cultural resources were identified during the survey and BPA determined that the project would have no adverse effect to historic properties. The U.S. Forest Service concurred with BPA’s determination on March 30, 2020. BPA did not receive any other responses.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> 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; SHPO; 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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2. Geology and Soils</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> Localized soil disturbance during wood pole replacements, landing improvements, and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary to prevent erosion and disturbed areas would be stabilized.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. **Plants** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Explanation: No known Federal/state special-status plants are present in the project area. Vegetation would be crushed and left in place, rather than bladed, where possible. Any disturbed areas outside the road prism would be reseeded with an appropriate seed mix.

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

Explanation: BPA determined that the project would have no effect to federal or state special-status wildlife species. Structure 10/4 of the Boyer-Tillamook line is located adjacent to northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat. Timing restrictions would be implemented to avoid impacts to northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

Project activities would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, other wildlife and associated habitat would not be affected.

Note:

- Project activities on structure 10/4 of the Boyer-Tillamook No. 1 transmission line would not occur between March 1 and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project. ESA-listed fish are found in waterways in the vicinity of the project area. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized to ensure sediment and other contaminants do not enter bodies of water; therefore, water bodies, floodplains, and fish would not be affected by the proposed project activities.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the vicinity of the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed and excavation would not extend to a depth that would intersect ground water.

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

Explanation: No specially-designated areas were identified within the project area. Land use would not change as a result of project activities.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line rights-of-way and on existing access roads. Replacement of wood poles and associated components would be in kind and replaced in the same location.

**10. Air Quality**

Explanation: The project would have a small, temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

**11. Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change. 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.

**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 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: April 29, 2020