

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Colville-Republic No. 1 Pole Replacement Structure in Line Mile 14

**Project No.:** 4790

**Project Manager:** Tina Edwards – TELP-TPP-1

**Location:** Stevens County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** To maintain reliable power to the region, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace a wood structure in line mile 14 with a steel monopole and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the Colville-Republic No. 1 transmission line. Replacement pole would be placed in or adjacent to existing holes following removal of current pole structure, and may be re-augured to assure proper placement depth.

Pole replacement location listed below:

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS	County, State
Colville-Republic No. 1	Line Mile 14	T36N R37E SEC11	Stevens, WA

Work would be conducted by crews of four to eight workers and an on-site archaeological monitor. Equipment would be electrical line trucks, bucket truck, dump truck, and auger. 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, 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/ Adrienne Wojtasz*

Adrienne Wojtasz

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah Biegel*

Sarah T. Biegel      Date: June 6, 2022

NEPA Compliance Officer

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:** Colville-Republic No. 1 Pole Replacement Structure in Line Mile 14

## **Project Site Description**

Proposed routine maintenance activities would be conducted along the Colville-Republic No. 1. Proposed maintenance activities would be performed in Avista-owned property. Project location is adjacent to the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, which is comprised of sparse secondary forest.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA consulted with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), Avista Corporation (Avista), National Park Service – Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (NPS), and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on the project. BPA determined that the project would have an adverse effect on historic properties (Site 45ST95). BPA, CCT, Avista, and DAHP entered into a Memorandum of Agreement on May 23, 2022, which includes stipulations for the pole replacement and site repair/restoration, mitigation for site damage, and various procedural tasks.

Notes:

- A cultural resource monitor would be required for all activity at the site.
- BPA would replace the wood poles with steel poles.
- BPA would use thick rubber matting at structure 14/6 during construction to protect the archaeological site from additional damage.

### **2. After construction, geotextile would be placed on the disturbed soil surface, and a layer of clean sterile soil would be placed on top and shaped to match the adjacent topography. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during pole replacements, landing improvements, and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control methods would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known Federal or 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 of the road prism would be maintained per the Memorandum of Agreement, signed March 23, 2022.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area does not include habitat for any Federal or state special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area. Project activities would be limited to already impacted rights-of-way and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would be temporarily disturbed by noise during construction, but there would be no long-term effect.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project. There are no fish 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**

Potential for Significance: No

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

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no use of groundwater proposed and excavation would not extend to a depth that would intersect groundwater.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area is adjacent to the project area. Work would be conducted under measures within the Memorandum of Agreement, signed March 23, 2022, among the National Park Service – Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, Avista Corporation, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Washington Department of Historic Preservation to limit any impacts to sensitive resources. No change in the existing land use would result from this project.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-ways. Replacement of wood poles with steel monopoles and associated components would be replaced in the same location and consistent with the existing transmission rights-of-way.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

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

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which would help 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: N/A

**Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.**

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Realty and Cultural personnel have notified landowners of proposed project activities. On-Site professional archaeological monitors from NPS and BPA would coordinate for upcoming work.

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

Signed: /s/ Adrienne Wojtasz  
Adrienne Wojtasz  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: June 6, 2022