

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY18 Ellensburg-Moxee #1 Fiber Replacement

PP&A No.: 3918

Project Manager: Brent Thompson

Location: Yakima County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating/damaged fiber between 18/3-20/1 on the Ellensburg-Moxee #1 transmission line. About 1 mile of fiber optic cable would be removed and new cable strung on the existing wood-pole transmission line structures. A trailer mounted single drum puller and tensioner will be used to pull in the fiber. Bucket trucks will be used to mount the fiber to each structure.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Ellensburg-Moxee #1	18/3 - 20/1	15N	18E	25,26,36	Benton, WA

Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing structures to minimize ground disturbance. Access road maintenance would be limited to blading, grading, and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance would take place in the existing road prism. The entire project area is located within DNR land.

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which would help reduce outage times and 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/ Shawn L. Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *April 11, 2018*

Attachment:
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 entire project is located within DNR land and the area is best described as scab land.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> On March 29, 2018, a records search was conducted by Brian O'Donnchadha and he found a recent archaeological survey had been conducted in the area. Since that section of line has been surveyed, and there are no eligible historic properties present, and all work is confined to, or close to the existing access road, no additional review under NHPA is required and the project may proceed with a determination of <i>No Potential to Effect Historic Properties</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area would be secured, and SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. • Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. • Limit access road maintenance to the existing road prism. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (road grading); erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. Area is previously disturbed by road development.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitat present. Area is previously disturbed by road development.</p>		

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| 5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies present in project area. | | |
| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> None present. | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site. Maximum depth of ground disturbance would be 1 foot. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary impacts during construction. Entire project is within DNR land. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> New fiber would not be noticeably different than existing fiber. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary and small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust would be of minor concern due to the timing of construction. | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary construction noise. Operational noise would not change. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions. | | |

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: Coordination with DNR has occurred via the Realty office—No concerns.

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

Signed:



Shawn L. Barndt/EPR-Tri Cities RMHQ

Date: April 11, 2018