

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Walnut City Tap Line Sale to McMinnville Power and Light

**Project Manager:** Gordon Markley

**Location:** Yamhill County, OR

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to sell the Walnut City Tap Line assets and transfer ownership to McMinnville Water and Light. The BPA Walnut City 115 kV tap line spans from McMinnville's Water and Light (MW&L) Walnut City Substation to BPA's Keeler-McMinnville No. 1 transmission line. The 5.63-mile tap line is located in Yamhill County. The line's setting is mostly agricultural and rural crossing through farmland, but also residential where it crosses through McMinnville to terminate at the Walnut City Substation at 1915 SW 2nd Street.

The Walnut City tap line was designed and constructed by BPA and energized in 1965. The 5.63-mile-long line is composed of 91 wood pole structures. The line remains essentially as designed and built by BPA. The underlying land is in private ownership and is currently leased by BPA, and will not be included in the sale. BPA will transfer its lease agreements to MW&L. Only the structures, conductors, and associated equipment are included in the sale.

**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/ Douglas F. Corkran

Douglas F. Corkran  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 21, 2018

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:** Walnut City Tap Line Sale to McMinnville Power and Light

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## Project Site Description

The project is located in the northwestern Willamette Valley in Yamhill County, OR near the City of McMinnville. The area is mostly rural agricultural land, with some areas of residences and several forested river bottom crossings.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The Walnut City Tap Line has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of the Bonneville Power Administration Pacific Northwest Transmission System. No ground-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale and the facility will continue to be operated as it has in the past. BPA has determined the undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. The Oregon SHPO concurred with BPA's determination on August 10, 2018.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale; soils and geology would not be affected by the change in asset ownership.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale and no plants would be affected. Any routine vegetation management would be carried out by the new owner and no longer by BPA.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No noise or habitat-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale; there would be no impacts to wildlife or their habitats due the change in asset ownership.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale; there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, and fish due to the change in asset ownership.</p>		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale; there would be no impacts to wetlands due to the change in asset ownership.</p>		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No ground-disturbing work is associated with the asset sale; there would be no impacts to groundwater and aquifers due to the change in asset ownership.

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



Explanation: Use and operation of the assets will remain essentially the same, just under different ownership; there would be no impacts to existing land uses or specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Existing conditions would remain unchanged. There would be no impacts to visual quality as a result of the change in asset ownership.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No dust or pollution will be released as part of the asset sale; there would be no impacts to air quality due to the change in asset ownership.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: No noise would be produced as part of the asset sale and equipment. There would be no change to existing noise conditions and thus no noise-related impacts due to the change in asset ownership.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No new health or safety risks would be caused by the asset sale. There would be no change to existing conditions and thus, no impacts to health and safety due to the change in asset ownership.

### **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 and/or McMinnville Power and Light will notify affected landowners about the change in ownership.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas F. Corkran  
Douglas F. Corkran - ECT-4

Date: August 21, 2018