

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Bell-Trentwood No. 1 Transmission Line Structure 12/4 Relocation

**Project No.:** 4003

**Project Manager:** Sarah Hall

**Location:** Spokane County, WA

| Transmission Line ROW | Structure Span | Township | Range | Section | County  | Ownership/Land Use |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|-------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Bell-Trentwood No.1   | 12/4 and 12/5  | 25N      | 44E   | 1       | Spokane | Private/Railroad   |

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Due to upcoming rail line construction, the railroad requested that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) relocate one structure on the 115-kilovolt Bell-Trentwood No. 1 transmission line which crosses their right-of-way. To accommodate this, BPA determined that Structure 12/4 would be removed and structure 12/5 would be replaced with taller, but otherwise similar, structure in the same location. No new access roads or equipment landings are required to perform the work.

Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project would include a combination of the following: a digger derrick, a bucket truck, a backhoe, a crane, and work trucks.

**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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 30, 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.

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### Project Site Description

The project is located on private railroad right-of-way and private undeveloped land. Much of the project area has been previously disturbed and the vegetation consists of low-growing grasses, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

| Environmental Resource Impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | No Potential for Significance       | No Potential for Significance, with Conditions |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that this type of activity does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, per 36 CFR 800.3 (a). Additionally, the project location has been previously surveyed during the 2015 cultural resource survey for the Bell District Project in Spokane County, Washington (Teoh 2015) and no cultural resources were identified during that survey. The APE is within an area that has been completely modified and no further action is needed. The proposed project (action) is an undertaking, but no historic properties will be affected.</p> <p>BPA's Inadvertent Discovery plan must be available on-site at all times during project activities. 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, DAHP, 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> |                                     |                                                |
| <b>2. Geology and Soils</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> After work is completed, soils would be stabilized using BMP C120 and C121 from the Western Washington Stormwater Manual, or as prescribed by the landowner. Additional BMPs would be implemented as necessary. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     |                                                |
| <b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area. Vegetation that would be disturbed consists of low-growing grasses, shrubs, and herbaceous plants</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                     |                                                |
| <b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitats are recorded in the project area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                     |                                                |

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



Explanation: There are no waterbodies or flood plains in the project area. The nearest waterbody is over one mile away, beyond the Kaiser Aluminum plant.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater.

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



Explanation: No change in land use and no specially-designated areas were identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to significantly impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust generated during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise from typical utility line equipment will be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities will 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The BPA Realty Specialist will coordinate with all landowners prior to work.

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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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: August 30, 2018