

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Longview-Mint Farm (COWZ) No. 1 115 kV Transmission Line Reconductor Project

**PP&A No.:** 3661

**Project Manager:** Amanda Williams – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Cowlitz County, Washington

**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 replace the conductor of the Longview-Mint Farm No. 1 115 kV transmission line, which is approximately 0.36 miles long and adjacent to Longview Substation. No ground-disturbing activity will be required by the proposed action.

**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/ Sarah T. Biegel*

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *February 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.

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### Project Site Description

The proposed project will be conducted on the entire length of the Longview-Mint Farm (COWZ) No. 1 115 kV transmission line, which is approximately 1/3 mile long. The line is located adjacent to Longview Substation in Cowlitz County, Washington in the BPA Longview District in Section 36 of Township 8N, Range 3W. The work will be performed within BPA easement on privately-owned land.

The site is located in the industrial area of the city of Longview. The land around the project is flat and comprised mostly of grasslands and wetlands at an elevation of approximately 15 feet. The nearest body of water is the Columbia River, located approximately ½ mile away.

### 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No Potential to Affect Historic Properties. Longview Substation is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register (Tama Tochiyama, BPA contract Historian, 2017). Longview-Mint Farm Transmission Line was built after 1974 and does not meet the eligibility requirements for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. There are no other previously recorded cultural resources within the project area. No further action is needed. The proposed project (action) is an undertaking, but no historic properties will be affected.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The scope of this project does not include ground-disturbing activity.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/special-status species are present in the project area.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.		

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



Explanation: All project activities will occur approximately ½ mile from the nearest water body, which is the Columbia River, and will have no impact due to distance. Erosion control measures will be implemented to ensure potential impacts from sediment are mitigated.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: A freshwater emergent wetland is present between structures 1/2 and 1/3 and at structure 1/5. Wetland mats will be used to mitigate disturbance to sensitive areas.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures will be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur 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: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

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

Description: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning 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/ Emma Reinemann  
Emma Reinemann  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: February 21, 2018