

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Brasada-Harney No. 1 Transmission line Wood Pole Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 3624

Project Manager: Gerri Colburn – TEPO-TPP-1

Location: Deschutes and Harney Counties, OR; Bonneville Power Administration’s Redmond District

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 wood-pole structures (including, cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the Brasada-Harney No. 1 Transmission line. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. Cross arms and braces may be also replaced at other locations along the line.

Minor maintenance of landing and access roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required to improve access within the transmission line corridor. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking and construction of water bars and drain dips.

The proposed action will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Structure	Township, Range, Section	County	Ownership/Landuse
2/6, 2/8	T17S, R14E, Sec03	Deschutes	BLM/Range
7/7, 8/6	T17S, R15E, Sec 19, 29	Crook	Private/Range
11/4, 13/2	T18S, R15E, Sec 9, 16	Crook	BLM/Range
28/6	T19S, R17E, Sec 32	Crook	BLM/Range
32/7	T20S, R17E, Sec 12	Deschutes	BLM/Range
36/4, 38/4	T20S, R18E, Sec 21, 26	Deschutes	BLM/Range
38/4	T20S, R18E, Sec 26	Deschutes	BLM/Range
40/3	T20S, R19E, Sec31	Deschutes	BLM/Range
42/5	T21S, R19E, Sec 04	Deschutes	BLM/Range
45/2	T21S, R19E, Sec 11	Deschutes	State/Range
49/6	T21S, R20E, Sec 21	Deschutes	BLM/Range
56/7, 57/3, 57/7	T22S, R21E, Sec 9, 10	Deschutes	Private/Range
59/7	T22S, R21E, Sect 11	Deschutes	BLM/Range
61/1, 66/5	T22S, R22E, Sec 18, 25	Deschutes	BLM/Range
67/3, 68/7	T22S, R23E, Sec 25, 32	Deschutes	BLM/Range
74/2, 77/7, 78/1	T23S, R24E, Sec 7, 22, 23	Harney	BLM/Range

Structure	Township, Range, Section	County	Ownership/Landuse
81/1, 82/5, 82/7	T23S, R25E, Sec 30, 21	Harney	BLM/Range
87/4	T23S, R26E, Sect 20	Harney	State/Range
91/4	T23S, R26E, Sec 21, 20	Harney	Private/Range
96/5	T23S, R27E, Sec 22	Harney	BLM/Range
97/4	T23S, R26E, Sec 20	Harney	Private/Range
98/4	T23S, R27E, Sec 24	Harney	Private/Range
99/5, 103/5, 103/9	T23S, R28E, Sec 30, 26	Harney	BLM/Range
105/6, 106/1, 109/4	T23S, R29E, Sec 30, 29, 35	Harney	BLM/Range
111/7, 112/7	T24S, R30E, Sec 06, 05	Harney	BLM/Range

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/ Fred Walasavage
 Fred Walasavage
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: March 15, 2018

Attachment(s):
 Environmental Checklist
 Effects Determination for T&E Species

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: Brasada-Harney No. 1 Transmission line Wood Pole Replacement Project

Project Site Description

The project activities will be conducted on BPA Transmission line rights of way. The site locations primarily consist of Federal lands. The project area is mostly flat and vegetation consists of grasses and steppe shrubs.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA archeological approval and Oregon SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination on March 7, 2018. Klamath Tribes, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Warm Springs Tribes consulted—no response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Cultural monitor will be required for work activities at structure 68/7. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected. All disturbed areas outside of the roadways, landings and 15 feet from the poles will be reseeded.</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 within proposed work areas. All work and staging areas will be conducted on existing roads and landings.</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 suitable habitat present in project area. The work will entail minimal human disturbance.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> None present in project area.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present in project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The proposed work is in an upland area; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface.

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

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

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: New wood poles will be similar to existing structures would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.

10. **Air Quality**

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

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Construction noise 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.

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

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.

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.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

BPA has coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management Prineville District in July 2017; no issues were raised.

Notification letters will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to all other landowners prior to work.

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

Signed: /s/ Fred Walasavage
Fred Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: March 15, 2018