

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Olympia District, Port Angeles Sappho 115 kV Transmission Line, 31/1 Urgent Access Road Repair Project

**PP&A No.:** 4875

**Project Manager:** Donna Martin - TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** Clallam County, WA

**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) is proposing to repair a section of failed access road near 31/1 of the Port Angeles-Sappho No.1 115 kV transmission line. The work would include repairing a large slide on the USFS road 30 with approximately 3,000 cubic yards of granular fill, installation of a new 60" diameter by 48' long drainage culvert within the fill material, restoring drainage ditches, and placement of road surface material.

**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, Jul. 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/ Greg Tippetts*

Greg Tippetts, EPR-Olympia  
Physical Scientist - Environmental

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah Biegel*

Sarah Biegel            Date: October 20, 2022  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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:** Olympia District, Port Angeles Sappho 115 kV Transmission Line, 31/1 Urgent Access Road Repair

## Project Site Description

The access road repair project is located in Clallam County, WA, in BPA's Olympia TLM Maintenance District. The project area is located on USFS land in the Olympic National Forest and would occur along USFS road 30 near the 31/1 of the Port Angeles-Sappho 115 kV transmission line. BPA maintains access rights along USFS road 30 and all work would occur within or adjacent to the existing road footprint. The project is located within the below listed coordinates.

Transmission Line	Nearest structure	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Port Angeles-Sappho No. 1	33/1	30N	11W	14	USFS

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

### 1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: On September 20, 2022, BPA engaged in consultation with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Nation, United States Forest Service – Olympic National Forest, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for the project location. The project areas were surveyed by a BPA archaeologist. Consultation including letters and direct consultation, which determined that no historic properties would be affected by project activities was conducted with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Nation, United States Forest Service – Olympic National Forest, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The DAHP concurred with the final determination on October 12, 2022. The USFS concurred with the final determination on October 13, 2022. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe concurred with the final determination on October 12, 2022. The Makah Nation concurred with the final determination on October 14, 2022. No additional responses from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe or the Washington State Department of Natural Resources were received. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resource staff would be contacted.

### 2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The road repair work would occur on an existing road prism at the location of a washed out section of USFS road 30. Ground disturbance would be limited to within and adjacent to the existing road location. Minor removal of some inside slope material would

be necessary to accommodate the new road design due to the slide. Upon completion of project activities, any disturbed sites would be stabilized with road surface material (rock) or native seed mix and erosion control materials. Native seed mixture is to be consistent with specifications, species and ratio, as provided by the USFS. Stormwater BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.

### **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The road repair work would occur on an existing road prism at the location of a washed out section of USFS road 30. Minor disturbance of vegetated areas adjacent to the existing road and cut slope may occur during the construction. Disturbed sites would be restored with native seed mixture consistent with specifications as provided by the USFS.

No special-status plants or Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants would be impacted from project activities. Under Section 7 of the ESA, BPA obtained an official species list from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on June 7, 2022. No ESA-listed plant species are known to be present in the project area.

### **4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA obtained an official species list for Clallam County, in Washington State, from the USFWS on June 7, 2022. Work would occur within and adjacent to the existing road with little to no wildlife habitat. The project is located within designated critical habitat for Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl. No occurrences of either species are documented to occur at or within 0.5 miles of the work location. The road work is localized and all work would be confined within and adjacent to the existing road prism. The duration of work would be short and likely within 3-5 days.

The project would occur outside the critical and late breeding season for Marbled Murrelet from April 1st through September 15th. Additionally, the project would occur outside the critical and late breeding season for Northern Spotted Owls, which is from March 1st through September 30th. No trees or other vegetation that could be potential nesting habitat for either species would be removed during the project.

Due to no known presence of species in the project area, the work occurring outside any breeding seasons, and no designated critical habitat being impacted, BPA has determined that the projects would have "no effect" on ESA-listed species or their critical habitat. No other special-status wildlife would be impacted by project activities.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation:

No in-water work or ground disturbance near waterways is proposed. The project would not affect any special-status species, ESUs, and or habitats. Stormwater BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. Disturbed sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities.

## 6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is not located within or near wetlands. Stormwater BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. Disturbed sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities.

## 7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. All spills would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

## 8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project locations are confined at or adjacent to the existing road footprint. The project area is located on USFS land in the Olympic National Forest and does not include any specially-designated areas.

## 9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The road repair would occur at or adjacent to the existing road. Road work would repair the road to near pre-failure conditions and would not be substantially different from the existing road.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The projects activities are of a short duration and involve normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would be expected due to construction.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The projects are located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance would be limited to general construction equipment activities, would be for a short duration, and would occur during daylight hours.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is considered normal construction and maintenance.

### **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: N/A

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

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

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

Description: Notifications via mailed letters were sent to all current landowners approximately 3-8 weeks prior to project initiation. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners/managers concerning the proposed project.

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

Signed: /s/ Greg Tippetts

Greg Tippetts, EPR-Olympia  
Physical Scientist, Environmental

Date: October 20, 2022