

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Elbe Tap to Alder-La Grande Structure Property Transfer

Project Manager: Roderick Morris, TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Pierce County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell one 75-foot-tall wooden transmission pole to Lewis County Public Utility District (LCPUD). The pole, structure 7/18, is on BPA's Elbe 115 kV Tap to Tacoma Power's Alder-La Grande transmission line, located in Elbe, Washington. The pole is located adjacent to LCPUD's Elbe substation, which LCPUD is proposing to expand. Upon substation expansion, the pole would then be within LCPUD's fenced substation. For maintenance and operation purposes, BPA proposes to transfer ownership of the pole to LCPUD. This proposal does not have any ground disturbance or construction activities associated with it.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel February 21, 2023
Sarah T. Biegel Date
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment: 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 wooden pole is located in Section 21, Township 15 North, Range 5 East, in Elbe, Washington, located in Pierce County. The property is developed with a substation owned by Lewis County Public Utility District (LCPUD) and an associated 115 kV transmission line. Residential housing, State Highway 706, and a railroad yard are located to the west and south of the location. The area to the north and east is mostly undeveloped forestland. The Nisqually River is located 0.20 miles south of the site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Elbe Tap to Alder-LaGrande Nos. 1 & 2 was originally energized in 1985 and does not fall into the period of significance outlined in the BPA Pacific Northwest Transmission System Multiple Property Submission (1938-1974), and as such is not considered a historic resource. Additionally, the proposed work does not include any ground-disturbing activities that would affect subsurface resources. BPA Historian review has shown that as the structure was constructed and subsequently energized outside of BPA's period of significance, the proposed sale of the wooden pole structure would have no potential to cause effect.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no proposed ground disturbance associated with this proposed action.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no proposed ground disturbance or construction activity associated with this proposed action. The proposed action would have no effect on Federal, State, or special-status plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no proposed ground disturbance or construction activity associated with this proposed action. The proposed action would have no effect on Federal, State, or special-status wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no proposed ground disturbance or construction activity associated with this proposed action. The proposed action would have no effect on water bodies, floodplains, fish species, or fish habitat.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no proposed ground disturbance or construction activity associated with this proposed action. The proposed action would have no effect on wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no proposed ground disturbance associated with this proposed action.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in land use and there are no specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change or impacts to air quality in the area resulting from the proposed action.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change or impacts to noise levels.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposal would not result in any impacts to 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: 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: LCPUD owns the property where the wooden transmission pole is located. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination is required.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger February 21, 2023
Beth Belanger Date
Environmental Protection Specialist