

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Filbert Tap – Forest Grove/McMinnville No1 Structure Relocation

**PP&A No.:** 6922

**Project Manager:** Alla Kirsanova – TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** Washington County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance, B4.13  
Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to relocate and remove structures on the Filbert Tap to Forest Grove-McMinnville No. 1 transmission line to support an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) road widening project. This project involves relocating structure 1/2 approximately 150 feet Ahead On Line (AOL), moving structure 1/3 approximately 175 feet AOL, and removing structure 1/4. Structure 1/5 would be replaced and re-installed using a culvert footing to protect a nearby wetland area, a new 50-foot by 50-foot rock landing would also be installed at this location. The new structure placements would utilize 105-foot wooden poles to accommodate existing local public utility assets that would be reconfigured as part of the road widening project. Work areas would be about 50 feet by 50 feet at each of the structure replacement locations. Access road work at the site would be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of the existing road prism.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, repair, relocate, and replace the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto. (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838i(b)). The Administrator is further charged with maintaining electrical stability and reliability, selling transmission and interconnection services, and providing service to BPA's customers. (16 U.S.C § 838b(b-d)). The Administrator is also authorized to conduct electrical research, development, experimentation, tests, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities. (16 U.S.C § 838i(b)(3)).

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Steven Selser  
Steven D. Selser  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange  
Katey C. Grange Date: February 2, 2026  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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: Filbert Tap – Forest Grove/McMinnville No1 Structure Relocation

### Project Site Description

The project would be located on BPA's Filbert Tap – Forest Grove/McMinnville No1 transmission line, on the corner of Tualatin Valley Highway (HWY 47) and Southwest Fern Hill Road, in Washington County Oregon. The underlying land is owned by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The transmission line is located between HWY 47 and a railroad track, roughly 65 feet away to the southeast, that runs parallel to the BPA transmission line. Land use in the area is primarily for vehicular traffic and railway transit; there are also industrial property, a water treatment facility and a residential property nearby.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

#### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Pursuant to its responsibility under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 800, BPA initiated consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians on October 27, 2025. BPA determined the proposed project would result in no adverse effects to historic properties. On January 23, 2026, the SHPO concurred with the determination of no adverse effect to historic properties. On November 28, 2025, the 30-day response period ended and no comments were received from the consulted parties.

#### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacement. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to vegetation is anticipated in new structure locations located in managed grasses between the highway and railroad track. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species. No impacts to state or federally sensitive species are anticipated. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted transmission line and access road rights-of-way and would not substantially alter existing plant communities.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: In general, the project would have a small impact on wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with elevated equipment noise and human presence.

The project would have no impacts to state or federally listed sensitive species with the implementation of the minimization measures identified below.

**Notes:**

- Streaked Horned Lark (SHL) timing restrictions are between April 16 and August 15, if work is to be performed outside of this period there are no restrictions.
- If work is proposed within the breeding period identified above, the new structure location and vehicle access would need to be cleared by the BPA Environmental Representative one week prior to commencement of work.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is not located within a floodplain and there are no nearby water bodies that support resident, anadromous, or ESA-listed fish. Erosion control best management practices combined with the distance to the nearest waterbody would ensure that sedimentation would not enter into any water body.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are within the project area. There is an identified wetland area about 50 feet from structure 1/5, but this area would be avoided and the structure would be retrofitted with a culvert fitting to protect this resource.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change or disruption in land use. No specially-designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-way and access road prisms. The relocated structures would be slightly taller but would have the same look as the old structures, therefore there would not be a significant change to visual quality of the area.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

### **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: All activities have been coordinated with ODOT.

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

Signed: /s/ Steven Selser

Steven Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: February 2, 2026