

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Lexington-Longview Distressed Structure Corrections

PP&A No.: 6867

Project Manager: Alla Kirsanova, TEPL-TPP-1

Location: Cowlitz County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance; B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to correct an issue at structure 9/1 on the Lexington-Longview No. 1 transmission line. The structure is currently caught in an active landslide and is at risk of failing. The proposed project would move this section of the Lexington-Longview No. 1 transmission line on to the adjacent, unused portion of the double circuit Longview-Allston No. 4 transmission line, between structures 2/1 to 2/4.

To accomplish the work, Lexington-Longview No. 1 structures 8/6 and 9/7 would be rebuilt and new conductor would be strung between them on the existing Longview-Allston No. 4 structures. Crews would utilize boom trucks, bucket trucks, and a helicopter. A portion of a public road within the right-of-way would be utilized as a landing zone. Appropriate permits, signage, and protection devices would be utilized. Approximately 1 mile (5,500 feet) of new road would be constructed using bull dozers, excavators, and dump trucks to access the structures.

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/ Jonnel Deacon
Jonnel Deacon
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey C. Grange Date: February 4, 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.

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Project Site Description

The project location is on private land in Cowlitz County, Washington. The area is on Mt. Solo and is characterized by unstable slopes with several active landslides. The area surrounding the right-of-way consists of private timber land, an industrial park, rock quarries, and a few rural houses. The public road that would be temporarily closed and used for a landing area is currently used very minimally. There are no homes or businesses located on it.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Pursuant to its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 800, BPA initiated consultation with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Cowlitz Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on March 19, 2025. DAHP concurred with the APE and the determination of no adverse effect on June 5, 2025. No other responses were received within 30 days. An addendum report was submitted to the above parties on December 17, 2025. DAHP concurred on December 22, 2025, and no other responses were received.

In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacement and road work. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary to minimize soils from traveling outside of the work areas.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: About 0.3 acres of vegetation would be graveled for the new access road and minimal vegetation disturbance is anticipated for the other work areas. 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 access road and transmission line right-of-way and would not substantially alter existing plant communities in the area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have a small impact to wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with elevated equipment and helicopter noise and human presence. The project location is adjacent to an industrial park as well as rock quarries where active blasting is occurring. Temporary noise and presence would not significantly increase disturbance beyond the existing levels. Any wildlife in the area would be able to turn away from the project into adjacent areas, including the private timber land. The project would have no impacts to state or federally listed sensitive species.

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 vegetated distance to the nearest waterbody (approximately 4,100 feet) would ensure that sedimentation would not enter into any water body.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Portions of the work would occur in suspected wetlands. As much work as possible work would be done utilizing the helicopter. Structure 9/7 would be replaced in the suspected wetland utilizing swamp mats and no permanent road or landing work would be necessary. All work would be in accordance with the Clean Water Act utilizing a non notifying nationwide permit.

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 and work is proposed to occur during the dry season when interactions with groundwater would be minimized.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No permanent change in land use would occur. During the temporary road closure, the detour around it would be minimal as there are roads immediately to the north and south that could be used to get around the closure. The temporary closure of a public road would be short in duration and would not significantly impact travel times. No specially-designated areas are present in the work areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-way. Replacement of the wood pole and associated components would be in kind and replaced in a similar location. The new access road would be consistent with the current visual quality of the transmission line right-of-way and existing access roads. There would be a minimal change to the 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 from equipment and the helicopter. The surrounding area includes operational noise of the transmission line and noise from the adjacent industrial land uses. Noise levels generated would be temporary and less than noise from adjacent land uses.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would move a portion of a transmission line out of an active landslide which would help avoid an outage 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 landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Jonnel Deacon

Jonnel Deacon
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: February 4, 2026