

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Raymond-Henkle St. Transmission Line Impairment Rectification

**PP&A No.:** 3501

**Project Manager:** Eric Orth, TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Pacific County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance activities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to correct two areas along the Raymond-Henkle St. transmission line where the ground to conductor distance has been determined to be insufficient with current electrical safety standards, referred to as an impairment. These corrections will be made by re-aligning the first three spans of the transmission line that are on BPA fee-owned property by adjusting the locations of structures 1/1, 1/2, and 1/3. Structure 1/1 is currently an H-frame wood pole structure and will be replaced in kind. Structure 1/2 is currently an H-frame wood pole structure and will be replaced with a single wood pole. Structure 1/3 is currently a steel lattice structure and will be replaced with a single wood pole. Additionally, the current steel lattice structures 1/7 and 1/8 will be replaced using taller single wood pole structures to meet current design standards. Existing guy anchors will be reused at these locations if possible.

Rebuilding or moving structures will be accomplished with heavy equipment, boom trucks and backhoes. Two boom trucks (pole or bucket) will be used at each work location to accommodate work crews. For locations where the structures are being relocated, new holes will be dug to a depth of approximately 10 feet deep for the poles and any required guy wires. All excavation will be completed with a backhoe. Structures being retired will be dismantled or cut off just below ground level.

At the new structure 1/2 and 1/3 locations crushed rock will be placed to develop vehicle work landings. The landings will be developed to the minimal size necessary to safely accommodate the required work vehicles. All other work locations have currently serviceable vehicle access. About 4 trees would be removed from a mature stand of trees near the new Structure 1/2 location to accommodate the new configuration of the transmission line. The disturbance area for the relocations of structures 1/1, 1/2, and 1/3 would be less than .4 acres. The disturbance area for replacement of structures 1/7 and 1/8 would be about .04 acres at each site.

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Raymond-Henkle St. No. 1	1/1, 1/2, & 1/3	14N	9W	12	BPA Fee Owned
Raymond-Henkle St. No. 1	1/7 & 1/8	14N	9W	13	Privately owned Forest

**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/ Phil Smith for  
Greg Tippetts EPR-Olympia  
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: February 6, 2017

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:** Raymond-Henkle St. Transmission Line Impairment Rectification

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### Project Site Description

The 1/1 to 1-3 work area occurs entirely on BPA property adjacent to the Raymond Substation. The area has a slight slope leading away from Hwy 101 and is comprised of graveled access roads, grassy areas, shrubs, and is adjacent to a stand of alders and Doug fir trees. Butte Creek meanders between the project area and the substation to the south. The 1/7 & 1/8 locations occur on BPA right-of-way easement across privately owned forest lands; the right-of way has grasses shrubs and adjacent trees.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project APE. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. Washington DAHP agreed with a no effects determination from a survey report; on 12/20/16, Log No.: 2016-11-08482-BPA. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor. A small cluster of regionally common trees and vegetation, including one 12" Douglas fir tree, three Red alder trees, and some Salmonberry, will be removed to accommodate the new line configuration. No special-status species are present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor with little wildlife habitat; no mapped special-status species or designated habitats are present.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Structures 1/1, 1/2, and 1/3 are currently located near Butte Creek. The proposed relocation will move all three structures further away from the creek. . The creek is fish bearing, but does not support ESA-listed		

fish. There would be no in-water work required. Appropriate storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the creek from runoff or erosion. Work areas would be stabilized upon completion of project activities and reseeded. A no effect determination addressing ESA aquatic species and essential fish habitat was completed for the project.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands occur at or within the area of influence of the work sites.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



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

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



Explanation: The project locations are within existing transmission line right-of-way and would not change existing land uses. Project locations do not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Although structures would be relocated and will have some different structure types, the overall visual change would be consistent with the existing transmission line use in the area. Tree removal may be noticeable to motorist on Highway 101, but there are numerous trees in the area and the overall visual change would be negligible.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is 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**



Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known. Completion of this project would increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

### **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, if necessary:

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

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

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

Description: A portion of the project is located on BPA fee owned land. For the other lands associated with the project, notifications via mailed letters have been sent to current landowners. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners/managers concerning the proposed project.

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

Signed: */s/ Phil Smith for*  
Greg Tippetts - EPR/Olympia  
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: *February 6, 2017*