

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Boyer-Tillamook #1 13/1 Emergency Structure Replacement

Project No.: 3644

Project Manager: Tina Edwards - TEPO-TPP-1

Location: Tillamook County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace structure 13/1 along the Boyer-Tillamook #1 transmission line. Replacement will include utilizing 55' wood poles (existing poles are 50") to more properly frame the structure and would utilize the existing hardware (cross-arm and X-brace) if possible as well as utilizing the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Minor landing clearing will be performed at the immediate base of the structure to remove tall vegetation and reduce grade for safe equipment placement. Erosion control BMP's will be utilized at the landing site for any possible ground disturbance. Access road work is not necessary at this location to access the structure site.

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/ Benjamin Tilley

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 5, 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: Boyer-Tillamook #1 13/1 Emergency Structure Replacement

Project Site Description

The project area is an upland site within the Nestucca River watershed within USFS land (Hebo RD, Siuslaw NF). The site is within an existing transmission line right-of-way and has been previously disturbed by routine vegetation and construction maintenance. The adjacent land is dominated by mature coastal forest and the immediate site contains low-growing native species, non-native forbs and grasses, and scots broom and Himalayan blackberry.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Oregon SHPO, affected tribes, and the USFS archaeologist have all been notified of the emergency situation and have accepted the work plan without additional surveys, reviews, or cultural monitors. In the event archaeological objects or sites (i.e., historic or prehistoric) are encountered during project implementation, BPA's cultural resource protocol will be implemented and all ground disturbance at the location will cease immediately until a professional archaeologist can be contacted to evaluate the discovery.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is in a previously disturbed right-of-way within the existing transmission line corridor, surrounded by intact coastal forest. The ground disturbance for the wood pole replacement expected is that typically associated with removing a 2-pole transmission line support structure and installation of the replacement poles (.04 acre). No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No identified listed species (federal and state) are present at or adjacent to the project site.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federally-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat present at or adjacent to the project area.</p>		

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



Explanation: An unnamed tributary to Three Rivers meanders around the base of the hillside that contains critical habitat for Oregon Coast Coho salmon. The access road to the project site is approximately 125 feet from the waterway. No access roads work will be performed. Erosion & sediment control BMP's will be utilized if necessary to minimize erosion and off-site material movement from the landing site which is approximately 1100' from the waterway.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are identified within or adjacent to any of the project work sites. BMP's employed in #5 above would minimize or prevent any potential runoff that could compromise water quality.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater. Disturbance from the project work would be physical in nature with no potential contaminants other than vehicular fluids that could possibly leak on-site. Spill kits will be in every vehicle and piece of work equipment present at all work locations.

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



Explanation: The project site is within the Siuslaw National Forest (Hebo Ranger District). The project will not alter the appearance or function of lands at the work sites.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The wood pole structures would be replacements of poles of the same shape and location. The new poles will be 5 feet taller than the existing poles. All existing hardware will be utilized and replaced. The visual impact of the overall project would be short-lived and would blend in quickly with the surrounding configurations.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Work activities for this project are maintenance-level in nature and should be completed in a short time period with minimal crews and machinery, resulting in exhaust fumes and potentially dust during dry periods. Dust control measures will be used if necessary.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise will occur from work activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions exist at identified work sites. A site-specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis will be developed and approved by BPA prior to work commencing. Daily job briefings will occur prior to work initiation each day to assure an overview of all potential hazards involved for that work day.

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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Coordination will continue with USFS district personnel, including the forest supervisor, forest biologist, and forest archeologist.

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

Signed: */s/ Benjamin Tilley*
Benjamin J. Tilley, EP-Alvey
Natural Resource Specialis (NRS)

Date: *April 5, 2017*