

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Wine Country-Midway and North Bonneville-Troutdale Transmission Line Impairment Remedy

PP&A No.: 3905

Project Manager: Elijah Sullivan

Location: Yakima and Clark counties, WA.

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to remedy two impairments, one on the Wine Country-Midway transmission line in the Tri-Cities District and one on the North Bonneville-Troutdale transmission line. An impairment is an area where the distance from the conductor to the ground surface is inadequate, per National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards, resulting in a threat to line reliability and posing a risk to public health and safety. The proposed work is necessary to ensure the line meets current NESC and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) standards.

The impairment on the Wine Country-Midway line is located near structure 4/1 in an existing cow enclosure. BPA proposes to excavate 84 cubic yards of soil from under the transmission line conductors; the soil would be spread evenly along low lying portions of the right-of-way and seeded or disposed of properly off site. Proposed excavation work would utilize the following type of equipment: excavators, bull-dozers, and dump trucks.

The impairment on the North Bonneville-Troutdale transmission line is located near structure 17/1 and can not be remedied at this time so BPA is proposing to install fencing around the impairment to restrict public access and lessen potential safety concerns until a permanent fix can be implemented. Installation of the fence may require minimal ground disturbance such as digging post holes.

Table 1. Impairment Remedy Location

Structures	Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership	USGS Quad Name
Wine Country-Midway				
4/1	T10N R23E Section 27	Yakima, WA	Private	Grandview
North Bonneville-Troutdale				
17/1	T2N R4E Section 26	Clark, WA	Private	Larch Mountain

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/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 11, 2018

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: Wine Country-Midway 4/1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale 17/1 Impairment Remedy

Project Site Description

The Wine Country-Midway impairment remedy work would be located on existing right-of-way on private fenced cow enclosure surrounded by agricultural land in central Washington. The North Bonneville-Troutdale impairment remedy work would be located on existing right-of-way on private land that has low growing vegetation in western Washington

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because of the highly disturbed nature of the first site and the minimal to no disturbance proposed at the second site, BPA has determined the project would have no potential to effect historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A relatively small amount of soil would be excavated and spread along low lying portions of the ROW all areas of disturbance would be stabilized and seeded.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal/special status plant species are present within the project area		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal/special status wildlife is present within the project area. There would be minimal potential disturbance to wildlife in the vicinity from the noise generated or the vehicular traffic to and from sites.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no federal/state special status species, water bodies or flood plains found within the project area.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands found within the project area.		

Explanation, if necessary:

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. Project would not result in any ground water withdrawals nor provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: No specially designated areas would be impacted by the project. A small amount of agricultural land would be temporarily disturbed. All areas of disturbance would be stabilized and seeded at completion of the project.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality as a result of the proposed road maintenance.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emission due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



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, 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.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA Realty would make the necessary landowner notifications.

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 11, 2018