

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Olympia-Grand Coulee No. 1 Insulator Replacement Project, Corridor Miles 100 to 130

**PP&A No.:** 3944

**Project Manager:** Glen Vanbergen – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace insulators, strings of bell shaped ceramic discs, along the Olympia-Grand Coulee No. 1 transmission line from towers 100/3 to 130/2. Using a line truck or helicopter; linemen would access transmission towers and change out insulators.

Additionally, in order to provide a safe work environment for this project, BPA is proposing to improve and repair approximately 4.5 mile of access roads. Proposed road work would include; blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on new and existing road prisms, replacing five cross-culverts, and constructing 18 drain dips. In addition to the proposed road improvements, work would include; the installation of two leveled landing areas, one of which would be 40 x 50 feet (ft) and the other being 40 x 60 ft. General equipment used for this type of landing work includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, brush hogs, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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

Biological Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy L. Mason*

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 16, 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:** Olympia-Grand Coulee No. 1 Transmission Line Insulator Replacement Project  
Corridor Miles 100 to 130

### Project Site Description

The project located in central Washington consists of mixed land use including disturbed low growing shrub/grass land and agricultural lands, flanked by cleared and second growth upland forest.

Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership
19N, 14E, Section 1,2,3,4	Kittitas, WA	Private, USFS
19N, 15E, Section 4,5,6,9,10,11,12	Kittitas, WA	Private
19N, 16E, Section 7,8,9,10,11,12	Kittitas, WA	Private
19N, 17E, Section 7,14,15,16,17,18,23,24	Kittitas, WA	Private, Private, WA Dept. State Lands
19N, 18E, Section 19,20,21,22,23,24	Kittitas, WA	Private, Private, WA Dept. State Lands
20N, 14E, Section 29,32,33	Kittitas, WA	Private

### 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: BPA conducted cultural resource field surveys for the proposed project. BPA sent a Letter of Determination of No Adverse Effect with the stipulation of archaeological monitoring and site avoidance to the Washington SHPO in late May 2018. Concurrently, determination letters were sent to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Wenatchee National Forest, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and Okanogan – Wenatchee National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management – Spokane District, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington State Parks and Recreation. BPA received one response consisting of SHPO concurrence on April 2, 2018.

2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: During construction all appropriate Best Management Practices would be used to implement site specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)

Explanation: No special-status species present. Work is to be conducted in an existing transmission line Right of Way (ROW). Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded with a geographic and climate appropriate seed mix.

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

Explanation: The project area does not include habitat for any special status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.

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

Explanation: Special-status fish species found adjacent to the proposed project area in the Yakima River (bull trout and steelhead) would not be impacted by the project. There would be no ground disturbing activities in near the Yakima River and no riparian vegetation would be impacted. Erosion control measures would be implemented to prevent sedimentation.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands would be impacted by the proposed project

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Spill prevention measures will be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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

Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**

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

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

### 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

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

Description: On-going coordination between BPA, USFS and BLM would continue through construction. Coordination of all activities with private landowners would also occur prior to beginning work.

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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/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist (Environmental)

Date: May 16, 2018