

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Chehalis to Raymond No. 1 Access Road Improvement Project

**PP&A No.:** 3965

**Project Manager:** Richard Ross, Civil Design – TERL-TPP-3

**Location:** Pacific County, WA

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
14N	8W	18	Pacific County, WA	Private

## **Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):**

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to perform routine maintenance of the existing access road for Chehalis to Raymond No. 1 transmission line, between structures 44/12 and 44/13. An undersized culvert has allowed road fill erosion, therefore BPA installed a temporary railcar bridge over the road fill to maintain access to the transmission lines. BPA proposes to remove the temporary railcar bridge and replace the undersized culvert with a longer, wider culvert. Standard on-site construction equipment will include track-hoes, dump trucks, loaders, concrete saw, mobile crane, construction forklift, and delivery trucks for other materials.

**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/ Kevin George*  
Kevin George – EPI-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: *July 20, 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.

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### Project Site Description

Proposed maintenance activities are located along BPA’s Chehalis – Raymond No. 1 transmission line between structures 44/12 and 44/13. One intermittent stream and no wetlands were delineated within the project area. The stream is a tributary to the Willapa River, located 0.25 river mile downstream of the project. The project footprint is currently used for electrical transmission and an access road. The project area is privately owned and areas surrounding the transmission easement are used for timber production. Land use in the surrounding area primarily consists of tree farms, low-density residential, and agriculture.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Historical Research Associated, Inc., conducted a cultural resource investigation for the project area on November 3, 2016. The Washington Department of Archaeology &amp; Historic Preservation (DAHP) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence on a Determination of No Historic Properties Affected was received on July 5, 2017. No comments were received from the Quinault Indian Nation, Shalwater Bay Tribe, or the confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within and adjacent to the existing culvert footprint. Approximately 145 linear feet (by 8 feet wide) of soil disturbance is proposed along the length of the intermittent stream. This includes removal of the existing 60-foot-long culvert, placement of the proposed 78-foot-long culvert, and a total of 50 additional feet of streambed regrading to match grades at the up and downstream extent of the project.</p> <p>Any soil cut from the culvert excavation would be reused for the culvert replacement or sidecast within adjacent disturbed areas in a thin layer. Erosion control measures would be used. Stabilization would include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch. In-water work will be conducted either when the channel is dry or by isolating the area of disturbance to minimize downstream turbidity.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species present. Vegetation disturbance would encompass approximately 1,200 square feet of vegetation. All areas of proposed vegetation removal include only low-growing shrubs or herbaceous species under the transmission line. Vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entry into the project area to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.</p>		

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated critical habitat are present within or adjacent to the project footprint. The existing road prism and surrounding area under the transmission line are low quality wildlife habitat.</p>		
<p>5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Mason, Bruce &amp; Girard, Inc. conducted a wetland/waters delineation of the one intermittent stream to the Willapa River located within the project footprint on June 21, 2017. Impacts to the stream include removal of the existing 60-foot-long by 2-foot-wide culvert and installation of a new 78-foot-long by 8-foot-wide culvert. These impacts were approved on June 19, 2018 by the US Army Corps of Engineers under Nationwide Permit 12, Utility Line Activities (NWS-2018-329).</p> <p>Although there are no listed fish species within the Willapa River basin, non-listed species have the potential to be present within the intermittent stream to the Willapa River within the project footprint. Therefore, the proposed replacement culvert has been designed to meet Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) stream simulation requirements to allow fish passage.</p> <p>Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is found for Chinook and coho in the Willapa River basin and within the intermittent stream to the Willapa River. Therefore, this project may adversely affect essential fish habitat. These impacts have been disclosed through an Action Notification Form using BPA's <i>Endangered Species Act Section 7 Programmatic Conference and Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species to Administer Maintenance or Rebuild Projects for Transmission Line and Road Access Actions Authorized or Carried Out by the Bonneville Power Administration in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho</i>. Approval of the Action Notification Form was received from that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on May 9, 2018.</p> <p>Additionally, construction best management practices, including in-stream work conducted in the dry channel or within an isolation area, would be implemented throughout the project to minimize localized soil disturbance, and instream sedimentation and turbidity.</p>		
<p>6. <b>Wetlands</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Mason, Bruce &amp; Girard, Inc. conducted a wetland/waters delineation within the project footprint on June 21, 2017. There were no wetlands delineated within the project area. No National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands or hydric soil units overlap road maintenance activities.</p>		
<p>7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Groundwater would not be affected by proposed road improvement activities; no new groundwater wells or use of ground water are proposed.</p>		
<p>8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All proposed road improvements are consistent with existing land use; no specially-designated areas are located within the project site. No changes to land use are proposed.</p>		
<p>9. <b>Visual Quality</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All road improvements would be at ground level and are limited to the existing road prism and the area immediately surrounding the transmission line.</p>		

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
10. <b>Air Quality</b> <u>Explanation:</u> Small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions are expected for a short duration due to construction. Any potential impacts are expected to be temporary, localized, and minimal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. <b>Noise</b> <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary noise is expected for a short duration from road improvement activities during daylight hours. Any potential impacts are expected to be temporary, localized, and not within range of any sensitive species.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b> <u>Explanation:</u> No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields would result from the project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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: The project is located entirely on private land. No public land agencies were contacted. Notification letters would be sent to all landowners prior to 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/ Kevin George  
Kevin George – EPI-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: July 20, 2018