

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



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

PP&A No.: 3905

Project Manager: Elijah Sullivan, Mark Korsness

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 three impairments, one on the Wine Country-Midway, one on the Spring Creek-Wine Country and one on the North Bonneville-Midway transmission lines within BPA's Tri-Cities District. An impairment is an area where the distance from the electrical 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.

At each of the three locations, BPA proposes to install wood-pole prop structures below the transmission lines in order to boost the conductor further from the ground. Along the Wine Country-Midway line the prop structure would be installed in an existing driveway approximately 730 feet Ahead On Line (AOL) of structure 4/1. On the Spring Creek-Wine Country line the prop structure would be installed in an agricultural field approximately 295 feet back on line of structure 30/1. For the North Bonneville-Midway line, the prop structure would be installed in a cattle feed lot approximately 576 feet AOL of structure 116/3. Proposed prop structure installation work would utilize the following type of equipment: line truck, auger truck and tractor trailer.

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
Spring Creek-Wine Country				
30/1	T9N R23E Section 20	Yakima, WA	Private	Mabton East
North Bonneville-Midway				
17/1	T10N R22E Section 4	Yakima, WA	Private	Granger

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: August 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: Wine Country-Midway 4/1, Spring Creek-Wine Country 30/1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale 116/3 Impairment Remedy

Project Site Description

The three proposed wood pole installation remedy locations are in central Washington. The Wine Country-Midway impairment remedy work would be located on existing right-of-way on a private driveway surrounded by agricultural land. The Spring Creek-Wine Country impairment remedy would be located on private land in an existing hop agricultural field. The North Bonneville-Midway impairment remedy work would be located on existing right-of-way on private land currently used for a cattle feed lot.

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 each of these sites, BPA has determined the wood pole installations 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 disturbance and any exposed soil 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 areas		
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 areas. 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 areas.		

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 projects. A small amount of 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 will 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: August 16, 2018