

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Maple Valley - Duwamish No. 1 Impairment Removal

**PP&A No.:** 4060

**Project Manager:** Cynthia Rounds – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** King County, Washington

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
23N	5E	20	King County, WA	Private Owners

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to remove one critical line impairment where the distance from the conductor to the ground surface does not have adequate clearance for safe and reliable operation, at structure 1/3 of the Maple Valley-Duwamish No. 1 transmission line in King County, Washington. Ground to conductor clearance will be achieved by installing a 2-pole wooden prop structure located approximately 450 feet ahead online (west) of the existing structure 1/3 within the BPA right-of-way. The prop structure would stand 65 feet in height above ground and would be buried 10 feet deep. A drill would be used to create boreholes where the structure poles would be placed. No other ground disturbance is proposed for the project. General equipment used for this type of project includes cranes and heavy duty 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/ Chad Browning*

Chad Browning

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*

Sarah Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 12, 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 construction activities are located in a segment of right-of-way (ROW) for the Maple Valley-Duwamish No. 1 Transmission Line, between structures 1/3 and 1/4, approximately ¼ mile southeast of Renton, WA, and 5 miles east of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. There are no National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands that intersect the project area – the nearest mapped wetland is mapped 0.84 miles west of the project area. Vegetation in the project area primarily consists of grasses and shrubs. The project area is privately owned and includes natural land cover. Land use in the surrounding area includes suburban development and other utility corridors.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p><b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> On July 24, 2018, BPA initiated consultation with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Tulalip Tribes, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).</p> <p>A cultural resources review was conducted by Bonneville Power Administration on August 22, 2018; Washington DAHP concurrence on a Determination of No Historic Properties Affected was received Aug 29, 2018. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Tulalip Tribes, and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe were consulted. No additional comments were received.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, BPA would stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; DAHP; and the appropriate local, state and Federal agencies. BPA would implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering, and take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>2. Geology and Soils</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within the existing ROW during installation of the 2-pole wooden prop structure that would be buried 10 feet deep. A drill would be used to create boreholes where the structure poles would be placed. Excavated soil from the borehole would be spread in an upland area on site, seeded, and covered. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to prevent erosion and any additional disturbed areas would be reseeded. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> Vegetation removal would be limited to grasses and shrubs areas within the disturbance footprint as described in the Soils section, above. No Federal or state special-status plant species are mapped within the project area. All areas of soil disturbance would be reseeded. Vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entry into the project area to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 suitable habitat is present in the project area for listed wildlife species. Low-quality habitat typical of the area would be disturbed. No state or federally-listed wildlife species are mapped within the project area.</p>		
<p>5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies were mapped within the project area during a June 12, 2018, site visit conducted by a BPA scientist.</p>		
<p>6. <b>Wetlands</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands that intersect the project area – the nearest mapped wetland is mapped 0.84 miles west of the project area. No wetlands were observed within the project area during a June 12, 2018, site visit conducted by a BPA scientist.</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 proposed.</p>		
<p>8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No land use changes are proposed; no specially-designated areas have been identified.</p>		
<p>9. <b>Visual Quality</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All improvements will be at ground level and are limited to the existing ROW and the area immediately surrounding the transmission lines.</p>		
<p>10. <b>Air Quality</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Any fugitive dust or similar air-quality impacts during project construction are expected to be temporary and minimal.</p>		
<p>11. <b>Noise</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Construction noise from typical utility line equipment would be temporary and localized.</p>		
<p>12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Project activities would not impact human health or safety. The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.</p>		

### **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 privately owned. Property owners would be notified prior to construction.

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

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning  
Chad Browning  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: September 12, 2018