

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: CHEH-CENT No. 2, structure 5/1 emergency replacement

Project Manager: Tina Edwards, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Lewis County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.13: Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to relocate an existing wood pole transmission line structure (5/1) farther north away from the Chehalis River. The river has washed the bank away up to the transmission structure and the tower is in imminent danger of failing. Additionally, a new structure (4/10) is proposed to be added to the south side of the crossing to accommodate the increased span. Tasks include: installation of two new in-kind wood pole transmission line structures, including all hardware and guys and the removal of one wood pole transmission line structure.

Where needed, the project may include improvements to existing access roads and landings associated with the subject transmission line structures that currently inhibit access at the specified locations. Work may include improvements of existing road surfaces and landings (e.g., blading and rocking) as well as improvements and in-kind replacements of existing drainage features.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	Land Use
Chehalis-Centralia No. 2	5/1 (<i>removed</i>)	13N	3W	43	Agricultural
	5/1 (<i>new location</i>)	13N	3W	1	Agricultural
	4/10 (<i>new structure</i>)	13N	3W	43	Agricultural

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/ Greg Tippetts

Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 10, 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

All work would be done in existing managed rights-of-way that cross private agricultural land.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation was completed for the project APEs. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. Washington DAHP agreed with an effects determination from the survey report on September 24, 2018, Log No.: 2018-07-05967-BPA. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Where appropriate, storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues. This area is geologically unstable due to river bank failure. This is the reason for the structure move.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor. No special-status species are present. Except for excavations for the new structures, no vegetation would be removed and no long-term effects are anticipated. In addition, all equipment would be washed per BMPs to reduce the spread of invasive species.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor with little wildlife habitat; no mapped special-status species are known to be present.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This project involves a crossing of the Chehalis River. Both the structures (5/1 relocation and the new structure 4/10) are located adjacent to the river in upland habitat. Appropriate storm water BMPs would be</p>		

used during the project to protect the surrounding areas from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. No in-water work is authorized for any of the project sites. No FEMA-mapped floodplains are mapped within the project site.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are within the project boundary.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. All spills would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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

Explanation: The project locations are confined to the existing transmission line ROW corridors. Underlying and surrounding land use is private agricultural. Project locations do not include any specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities would not alter or affect visual quality. Structure replacements are in-kind and would not be visibly different from the existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance would be limited to general construction equipment activities, would be for a short duration, and would occur during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known. Completion of this project would increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project PM and TLM foreman have continuously been in contact with the property owner. The land owner has been involved in the development, coordination, and timing of the planned project. Property owner concerns and requests were taken into consideration during project development.

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

Signed: */s/ Greg Tippetts*
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: *October 10, 2018*