

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Badger Canyon – Reata #1 Transmission Line Impairment Remedy

**PP&A No.:** 4088

**Project Manager:** Erich Orth

**Location:** Benton County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to remedy an impairment on the Badger Canyon – Reata #1 transmission line by reshaping the soil surface. An impairment is an area where the distance from the 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.

See table below for structure names and location on the transmission line.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Badger Canyon-Reata #1	2/13 and 3/1	8N	28E	10	Benton, WA

The impairment is located just back on line (BOL) of structure 3/1, and ahead on line (AOL) of 2/13, in an undeveloped area adjacent to residential properties and pastures or similar type land uses. The limited vegetation in the area of the impairment is grasses and weeds. The impairment was caused by the development of the adjacent properties. Excess material was pushed into the ROW.

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. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**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/ Shawn L. Barndt*  
Shawn L. Barndt  
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: October 29, 2018

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist

cc: (w/ enclosures)  
Wilfong, Greg – TFPF-PASCO  
Cossairt, Toby – TFPF-PASCO

## 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:** Badger Canyon – Reata #1 Transmission Line Impairment Remedy

### Project Site Description

The impairment is located just back on line (BOL) of structure 3/1 in an undeveloped area adjacent to residential properties and pastures or similar type land uses. The limited vegetation in the area of the impairment is grasses and weeds. The impairment was caused by the development of the adjacent properties. Excess material was pushed into the ROW.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

<b>Environmental Resource Impacts</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</b>
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeologist, Brian O’Donnchadha, visited the site on October 18, 2018 and had the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area has been extensively impacted by earthmoving related to the construction of private housing that flanks the APE on three sides. Heavy machinery tracks and wheel ruts are present through-out. The impairment itself is bermed material associated with the creation of a level landform to accommodate a house site. Consequently, the work being proposed to address this impairment will not impact any intact or <i>in situ</i> land forms or soil horizons.</li> <li>I have determined, based on these facts, that the proposed work has No Potential to Effect Historic Properties as currently planned.</li> </ul> <p>In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured, and SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance is required to remove the impairment; about 60 cubic yards of soil would be removed and spread in a low area onsite; erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. Area was previously disturbed by adjacent site development.</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitat present. Area was previously disturbed by adjacent site development.</p>		

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



Explanation: No water bodies present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site. Maximum depth of ground disturbance would be 2 feet.

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



Explanation: None present.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The area will not be noticeably different than it is now.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary and small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust will be of minor concern due to the timing of construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.

### **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: Coordination with property owners has occurred. No concerns.

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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/ Shawn .L Barndt  
Shawn L. Barndt/EPR-Tri Cities RMHQ

Date: October 29, 2018