

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Wood Pole Replacements on Boyer-Tillamook #1 transmission line corridor

Project No.: 3306

Project Manager: Gary Beck TEP-TPP-1

Location: Tillamook County, Oregon

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 in-kind replacement of 20 wood pole structures along the Boyer-Tillamook #1 transmission line corridor. Poles will be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-augered to assure proper depth placement. Minor maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings is scheduled to be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. See list of structures below.

Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
6/3	5S	9W	28	Tillamook, OR	Commercial Forestry
12/4, 13/2, 13/3	4S	9W	29,30	Tillamook, OR	Commercial Forestry
14/4	4S	9W	19	Tillamook, OR	Commercial Forestry
15/6	4S	10W	13	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
17/7	4S	9W	6	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
18/4, 18/5	3S	9W	31	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
19/6	3S	9W	29	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
21/1	3S	9W	20	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
22/2	3S	9W	17	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
23/2	3S	9W	8	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry

24/8	3S	9W	5	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
25/5	2S	9W	33	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
29/2, 29/3	2S	9W	9	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
30/7, 31/5	2S	9W	4	Tillamook, OR	Commercial forestry
32/12	1S	9W	32	Tillamook, OR	Agriculture

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/ Philip Smith for
Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: November 18, 2015

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: Wood Pole Replacements on Boyer-Tillamook #1 transmission line corridor

Project Site Description

Work sites are located in the northern Oregon Coast Range within an existing transmission line right-of-way. There is an adjacent state highway along the entire corridor. Land use is primarily commercial forestry and USFS lands. Timber stands vary from 5-80 years in age. The final work site is located in grazed pasture just south of Tillamook, Oregon.

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> SHPO report #27605 (9/30/2015) concurs that a good faith effort has been implemented and the project will likely have no effect on any significant archaeological objects or sites.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead so that a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies may be notified. • Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead so that a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies may be notified. • Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering and ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access. 		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance around each wood pole structure for re-augering and equipment mobilization. Erosion control measures will be utilized as necessary.</p>		

3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)

Explanation: No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species list, occurs within or at the works sites of the subject transmission line structures. This project does not include any vegetation removal. At the base of wood poles, some minor vegetation may be removed to facilitate equipment movement.

4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Explanation: No refuges and/or state-listed habitats occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures. All work will be contained to the existing, managed right-of-way easement and existing access road beds.

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

Explanation: At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: A review of national wetland inventories found no wetland areas within or adjacent to the subject transmission line structures.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet.

Ensure spill containment and cleanup materials are readily available at the project site, staging areas, and in construction vehicles and equipment. Replace any used spill response material within 24 hours.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: Primarily commercial forestry land use. The northern most work site is within a grazed pasture

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: In-kind replacements. There will be no noticeable change from existing pole structures. There are no specially designated land use areas within the project location.

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Dust control measures will be used if necessary.

11. Noise

Explanation: Work will not produce noise above ambient levels.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: A site specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis will be approved prior to work commencing.

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: All landowners will be notified of pending work several weeks before construction begins.

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

Signed: /s/ Philip Smith for
Benjamin Tilley –KEP/ALVEY

Date: November 18, 2015