

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Mt. Solo Tower Stabilization and Structure Relocation

PP&A No.: 2791

Project Manager: Jim Semrau

Location: Cowlitz County, WA

Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
8N	3W	23&25	Cowlitz, WA	Private

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to remove three towers located on an old land slide that has recently reactivated and rebuild the towers approximately 100 feet upslope from their current position. New tower footings will be excavated and then BPA would install 3 new in kind lattice-steel transmission towers. Bank stabilization soil nails would be installed adjacent to the access road next to the tower.

Approximately 750 linear feet of access road maintenance from Ridgecrest lane to 45/1 would include reshaping the road with a grader, installing and compacting rock. The road would also include water bars and drain dips for water control.

The affected lines include:

- Lexington-Longview #2 tower 8/2 Longview-Chehalis #1 2/5 - Relocate
- Longview-Chehalis #3 tower 2/6 - Relocate
- Napavine-Allston #1 tower 35/1 - Relocate
- Paul-Allston #2 tower 45/1 Install soil nails on three sides
- Paul-Allston #2 Access road maintenance

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 for

John B. Wiley

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 17, 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.

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Project Site Description

The steel structures are located along the crest of a steep hillside sloping down to the valley floor 1850 feet to the north. The bowl-shaped topography and hummocky ground within this steep slope are indicative of ancient landslide terrain. Seepage from the hillside caused small slumps at the new footing locations. Drainage trenches were installed in 1974 in an effort to stabilize the slope. In May of 1976, the City of Longview placed large quantities of fill material in the Right of Way in the vicinity of these structures without BPA's knowledge. This material was reportedly from a city reservoir excavation. In 2008 and 2011, small shallow sloughs occurred along the east side of the hill. Tension cracks were also observed along the crest of the north slope of the hillside adjacent to the structures. Fill placed in 1976 most likely loaded the slope and re-activated the ancient slide. Structure damage has not changed significantly since the original documentation in 2006; however additional sloughs can be expected and may result in structure failure.

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>The BPA Archaeologist performed Section 106 consultation for the built environment and archaeological resources. BPA made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties and letters seeking concurrence on BPAs findings and letters were sent to WA SHPO and the Cowlitz Tribe on October 5, 2015 – no response.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance, erosion control measures would be used. Exposed areas would be top soiled and seeded.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No listed plant species in the project area, low-quality habitat typical of area would be disturbed.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No listed wildlife or habitat in the project area. Low-quality habitat typical of area would be disturbed.</p>		

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



Explanation: No in-water work is planned and no listed fish species within the project area. No water bodies within 1.3 miles of the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: According to the wetland inventory no wetlands are known in the project area and existing vegetation did not exhibit wetland characteristics.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Groundwater will not be affected.

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



Explanation:
Consistent with the existing land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No change to visual quality. New structures would not be noticeably different than existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Some temporary dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:
Some temporary noise would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:
No change to human health or safety.

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 is occurring within BPA's exiting right of way and access roads. Reality has notified land owners.

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts for
John Wiley
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: December 17, 2016