

# memorandum

DATE: November 6, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Franklin Walla-Walla Line Tap

TO: Bob Trismen

Attached to this memorandum is BPA's CX Determination for the Franklin-Walla Walla Line Tap. Also included is the CX checklist that supports this determination.

The CX checklist may identify mitigation measures required to help your project meet environmental laws or CX criteria. The KEP environmental lead that will help facilitate implementation of mitigation measures required is Shawn Barndt

Please be aware that if project changes are required that involve new locations to be disturbed not analyzed as part of the CX (such as landing pads, relocations, access road widening, tree clearing, new structures, etc.), you need to immediately contact the KEP environmental lead, Shawn Barndt, to determine if additional environmental review is required.

/s/ Carolyn Sharp

Carolyn Sharp

Environmental Protection Specialist

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Franklin-Walla Walla Line Tap

**Project Manager:** Robert Trismen, TEP-CSB-1

**Location:** Walla Walla County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to construct a new tap point on the Franklin-Walla Walla No. 1 115-kilovolt line to interconnect a new Columbia Rural Electric Association (CREA) substation serving 20 megawatts of load growth from the Port of Walla Walla.

To construct the line tap, BPA would replace an existing 2-pole wood suspension structure (13/6 ) with a guyed, 3-pole, wood dead-end structure and add another guyed dead-end structure in between structures 13/6 and 13/7. Two lattice-steel disconnect switches would be built on either side of the new dead-end structures. The area of temporary disturbance around each structure would be approximately 100 x 100 feet.

Construction materials would be staged on the opposite side of the farm road paralleling the transmission line in an area between crop circles. If necessary, Jersey barriers would be placed around BPA's tap structures and guy wires and the road would be realigned slightly (1-2 feet) for the safety of farming equipment that actively uses the road. BPA would also install metering equipment within CREA's Worden Substation.

Construction is anticipated to begin January 2015.

**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/ Carolyn Sharp

Carolyn Sharp

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Act 1 Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 6, 2014

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:** Franklin – Walla Walla Line Tap

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### Project Site Description

The project area is surrounded by center-pivot irrigation crops and has been previously disturbed by agricultural practices and road development. The line tap would be located in between crop circles, adjacent to an existing gravel road.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No effect determination September 26, 2014. DAHP concurrence received September 30, 2014. Warm Springs tribe deferred to other tribes in the project area October 20, 2014. No response on effect determination received from Yakama, Umatilla or Nez Perce Indian tribes.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (two 100x100 foot areas), erosion control measures would be used.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present. Area of disturbance is between irrigated crop circles and frequently disturbed by agriculture operations.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special status species or designated habitat present. Area is previously disturbed by agriculture and road development.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies present in project area.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**    
Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**    
Explanation: Surrounding agricultural operations would not be impacted by construction, as area of disturbance is located in between crop circles. Landowner would be compensated for damage, as needed.

9. **Visual Quality**    
Explanation: New 3-pole structures would be of the same style as existing 2-pole structures. One additional new 3-pole structure and two new disconnect switches are a minimal addition of equipment that would not be visually significant.

10. **Air Quality**    
Explanation: 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. Jersey barriers would be placed around new dead-end structures and guy wires for the safety of farming equipment.

### 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 owner has occurred. Farm manager attended site visit June 13, 2014 and has been kept apprised of project schedule.

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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/ Carolyn Sharp

Date: November 6, 2014