



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

January 17, 2025

In reply refer to: ECT-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Big Eddy-Ostrander Conductor Replacement Project

Environmental Project Manager: Beth Belanger, ECT-4, 503-230-7579, babelanger@bpa.gov

Location: Between The Dalles, Parkdale and Sandy, Oregon in Clackamas, Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace the existing conductor on about 66.5 miles of its Big Eddy-Ostrander No. 1 500-kilovolt transmission line, which begins at BPA's Big Eddy Substation in The Dalles, Oregon and continues west to the Sandy, Oregon area. The transmission line was originally constructed in 1960 and consists of lattice steel structures. The existing conductor is past its service-life and replacement parts are no longer available to maintain the existing conductor. In some locations, the existing transmission structures would be increased in height to maintain a safe distance between the ground and the conductor.

The existing access road network would also be improved, as needed. This work would include improving or reconstructing the access roads, installing drainage features, installing or improving fords, gates and cattleguards. Landings would be created at the base of certain lattice structures to provide safe parking and turnarounds for transmission line maintenance crews and equipment.

To meet electrical reliability requirements, BPA is also proposing to remove approximately 2,300 danger trees that pose a threat of falling or growing into the conductor and causing unplanned electrical outages. The majority of tree removal would occur along the edge of the right-of-way.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

We have reviewed the description of the proposed action and found that while the proposal may be encompassed within the classes of actions listed in Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, there may be extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. Therefore, in accordance with 10 C.F.R. 1021.400 (d), we have determined that an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an environmental impact statement if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer