

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sickler-Schultz No. 1 Structure 14/5 Access Road Maintenance

Project No.: 4175

Project Manager: Donna Martin

Location: Chelan 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 conduct access road maintenance from the Malaga Alcoa Highway to structure 14/5 of the Sickler-Schultz No. 1 500-kV transmission line. Activities include the construction of two landings at structure 14/5 measuring approximately 50 feet by 50 feet. There will also be 200 feet of access road improvement and 1,950 feet of access road reconstruction, totaling 2,150 linear feet. Proposed access road work would include adding base and surface rock and installing three rock water bars along the 2,150 linear feet of access road.

The project would utilize erosion control devices (i.e., silt fencing, straw bales, etc.), as necessary, to minimize sedimentation of any downstream water resources during project activities. Any vegetative areas disturbed during access road improvement activities would be reseeded, as necessary, with a BPA-approved seed mix to stabilize the disturbed areas. In-stream work will not be required for this project.

The proposed project would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will reduce outage times and maintain reliable power to the region. All work would 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/ Emma Reinemann

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 2, 2019

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: Sickler-Schultz No. 1 Structure 14/5 Access Road Maintenance

Project Site Description

The project is located on private and Federal (BLM) property in a rural, non-developed area of Chelan County, Washington. The proposed road maintenance and improvement project would be performed within the existing access road easement.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> On October 5, 2018, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the following consulting parties: Yakama Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-Spokane District, and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (WA DAHP). A cultural resources survey was performed in October 2018 by BPA archaeologist, Brian O'Donnchadha and survey findings indicated no historic properties affected by the undertaking. Determination letters specifying a "No adverse effect to historic properties" determination were sent to all the consulting parties on February 8, 2019. Colville Confederated Tribes and BLM concurred with BPA's determination of No Adverse Effect without conditions on February 11, 2019, and February 13, 2019, respectively. WA DAHP concurred with BPA's determination with the stipulation for professional archaeological monitoring for work within the viewshed of CH 1031.</p> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A professional archaeological monitor would be present during all ground-disturbing activities within the viewshed of CH1031.In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the BPA archaeologist and the environmental project lead will be notified.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Ground disturbance would be limited to the existing road prism and access road easement width.</p> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, as necessary, prior to any vegetation and ground-disturbing activities.Any vegetative areas disturbed during access road improvement activities would be reseeded, as necessary, with a BPA-approved seed mix to stabilize the disturbed areas.		

3. **Plants** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: No suitable habitat is present within the project area for listed plant species. This project requires minimal vegetation clearing which would be conducted within and adjacent to the access road easement.

Note:

- Clean and inspect all construction vehicles and equipment prior to entering and exiting the project site to prevent introduction and spread of invasive weeds.

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



Explanation: No Federal/state special-status species are present in the project area.

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



Explanation: No instream work would be performed. No effect to aquatic species and/or habitat.

Note: Erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, as necessary, prior to any vegetation and ground-disturbing activities to protect any downstream water resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands were identified in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No groundwater or aquifers would be affected by the proposed work.

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



Explanation: No change in land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Visual quality would not be affected.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust from vehicles would be generated during construction; therefore, existing air quality would not be affected.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise would be intermittent, temporary, and localized. There are no residences or other sensitive noise receptors in the immediate vicinity.

Note: Access road maintenance activity would be limited to daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities would not affect human health or safety. The proposed project would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will reduce outage times and maintain reliable power to the region.

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: BPA Realty notified the private and BLM landowners of the upcoming road maintenance project. The landowners have no issues with the proposed work.

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

Signed: /s/ *Emma Reinemann*
Emma Reinemann - EPR-4
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: May 2, 2019