

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY20 Ellensburg-Moxee 3/10 Emergency Pole Relocation

PP&A No.: 4320

Location: Kittitas 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 relocate a wood pole structure and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, etc.) on the Ellensburg-Moxee #1 transmission line in the Ellensburg district. Structure 3/10 is located adjacent to the Yakima River. Due to river bank erosion, the structure is now located close to the river and, if not relocated, additional river bank erosion may result in the structure falling into the river.

See table below for structure name and location on the transmission line.

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Ellensburg-Moxee #1	3/10	17N	18E	11	Kittitas County, WA

The relocated structure would be moved approximately 25 to 30 feet ahead on line from the existing structure location. The structure type is an A-1 with no guy wires. The equipment to be used for this work is a boom truck, backhoe and a bucket truck. The work areas would be about 50 feet by 50 feet at the pole removal and installation sites.

Access road maintenance is not expected for this action, but if necessary, maintenance work would be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance would take place in the existing road prism.

No tree removal would be required. 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, Jul. 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/ Shawn Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt
Tri Cities RMHQ

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 10, 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: FY20 Ellensburg-Moxee 3/10 Emergency Pole Relocation

Project Site Description

The structure being replaced is in an easement on privately-owned property. The current structure is located about 4 feet from the river bank of the Yakima River. The replacement structure would be located about 30 feet from the Yakima River. A wetland is located about 50 feet from the work area.

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> BPA has determined this action falls within the parameters of § 800.12, Emergency Situations of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 2 states:</p> <p>(2) Notifying the Council, the appropriate SHPO/THPO and any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties likely to be affected prior to the undertaking and affording them an opportunity to comment within seven days of notification. If the agency official determines that circumstances do not permit seven days for comment, the agency official shall notify the Council, the SHPO/THPO and the Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and invite any comments within the time available.</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area would be secured, and DAHP and the environmental project lead must be notified.• Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.• Limit access road maintenance to the existing road prism.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (two 50x50 feet areas) would occur; erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Vegetation would be removed in pole excavation areas for the structure relocation, but no riparian trees would be removed. No special-status, including Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed, species present.</p>		

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



Explanation: Wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by minor noise during pole removal and installation activities. No special-status species or designated habitat present.

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



Explanation: The relocated structure would be placed a safe distance away from the Yakima River. The old structure would be removed without putting debris or sediment into the Yakima River. Erosion control measures would be used to limit the potential for sediment to enter into the river. Due to this, no special-status species or designated habitat would be disturbed or effected.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present where the work is being conducted. Erosion control measures would be used to reduce the potential of sediment entering the adjacent wetland.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site. Maximum depth of ground disturbance would be about 10 feet.

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



Explanation: The project will not alter the appearance or function of the lands at the work sites.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: New wood-poles would not be noticeably different than existing poles and the visual character of the right-of-way would largely be unchanged.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary and small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction would occur. Dust would be of minor concern due to the timing of construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are present. The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in 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: Coordination with property owner has occurred. No concerns have been expressed.

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

Signed: /s/ Shawn Barndt
Shawn L. Barndt Tri Cities RMHQ

Date: December 10, 2019