Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: DeMoss - Fossil Transmission Line FY18 Wood Pole Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 4103

Project Manager: Tina Edwards – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Sherman County - Oregon

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership/Landuse
DeMoss - Fossil	9/11	01S	18E	11	Sherman, OR	Private/Range
	11/1	01S	18E	12	Sherman, OR	Private/Range

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

<u>Description of the Proposed Action</u>: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood-pole structures (including, cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the specified line. Replacement would be inkind and would utilize the existing holes if possible to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger would be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Minor maintenance of landings within their existing landing prisms may be required to allow for safe working conditions. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands.

The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

<u>Findings</u>: 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/ <u>Fred Walasavage</u>
Fred Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel Date: July 1, 2019

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer – EC-4

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

Effects Determination for T&E Species

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: FY18 Wood Pole Replacement on the DeMoss - Fossil Transmission Line

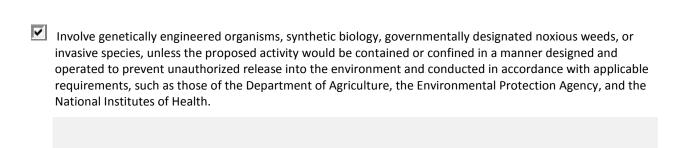
Project Site Description

The project activities would be conducted on BPA transmission line rights of way. The site locations consist of private lands. The project area is mostly flat to rolling terrain and is used as rangeland. Vegetation primarily consists of grasses and steppe shrubs.

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						
	BPA archeological approval and Oregon SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination was received on June 25, 2019. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs of Oregon were consulted—no response received. Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work would immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist would be notified.						
2.	Geology and Soils	V					
	Explanation: The project would require minimal gradual would be affected.	round-disturbing activi	ties. No prime or unique farmlands				
3.	Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitat)						
	Explanation: There are no special-status species we however, any disturbed areas outside of the roads						
4.	Wildlife (including Federal/state special- status species and habitats)						
	<u>Explanation</u> : No special-status species and habitat present in project area for listed wildlife species.	ts identified within the	project area. No suitable habitat is				
5.	Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitat)	V					
	Explanation: None present in project area.						

6.	Wetlands	V					
	Explanation: None present in project area.						
7.	Groundwater and Aquifers						
	Explanation: No contact with groundwater. The proposed work is in an upland area; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface.						
8.	Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas						
	Explanation: No change in land use and no specially-designated areas identified.						
9.	Visual Quality						
	<u>Explanation</u> : New wood poles would be similar to existing structures and would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.						
10.	Air Quality						
	<u>Explanation</u> : Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.						
11.	Noise						
	Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and	localized.					
12.	Human Health and Safety						
	Explanation: Project activities would not impact human harduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times are reduced outage times and maintain reliable power in the reduced outage times are reduced outage.	egion.	on would help				
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	proposed project would also meet conditions that are int ject would not:	egral elements of the categorical e.	cciusion. The				
V	Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, o health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orde		nent, safety, and				
V	Require siting and construction or major expansion of wa facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise ca		treatment				
V	Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, products that preexist in the environment such that there						



Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Landowners would be notified by the BPA Reality Specialist prior to construction.

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

Signed: /s/ Fred Walasavage Date: July 1, 2019

Fred Walasavage

Environmental Protection Specialist