

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** REVISED Eugene-Alderwood 115-kV Transmission Line Insulator Replacements

**PP&A No.:** 4200

**Project Manager:** Nicholas Wenzl

**Location:** Lane County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace non-ceramic insulators (NCIs) with ceramic insulators on sections of the Eugene-Alderwood, Albany-Eugene, Parker Tap, and Junction City Tap 115-kV transmission lines located in the BPA's Eugene district. The existing NCIs are subject to flashover and are beyond their designated end of life span. Structures requiring insulator replacements are primarily located along the median between Highway 99 and railroad tracks. The work will occur between BPA's Eugene Substation, located in the city of Eugene, and the intersection of Oregon State Highway 99 and Prairie Road. Land use in the area includes urban/industrial and agriculture. Replacing the insulators would be done using a combination of line trucks, trailers, and light duty trucks. All structures have good access and insulator replacement does not require any ground disturbance.

**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/ Kevin B. George*  
Environmental Protection Specialist - EPR-4

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 11, 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.

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## Project Site Description

Structures are located adjacent to Oregon State Highway 99 and existing railroad tracks. Land use in the area includes urban/industrial and agriculture.

## 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> According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The proposed action is considered to be routine transmission line maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure and ensure safe transmission line operation and reliability. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No earth disturbance is expected. Structures are easily accessible from existing roads.		
3. <b>Plants</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. No ground disturbance anticipated.		
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, industrial/urban uses, and highway/railway development.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No earth disturbing activities are required. No water bodies would be impacted.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No work would occur in or near wetlands. No earth disturbing activities.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on site. No ground disturbance anticipated.

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



Explanation: No impacts to existing land use. Work on structures along existing roads may cause traffic to slow due to curious motorists slowing down to see what's going on.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Replacement of existing NCIs with ceramic insulators could make the transmission line appearance more uniform as many of the insulators have already been replaced with ceramic insulators.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary and minimal amount of vehicle emissions due to vehicle use at structure site and travel to and from site.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise but would not be noticeable due to ambient noise levels due to industrial use, airport use, and highway/railway noise. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions. 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: TLM coordination with property owners has occurred. No concerns.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George

Kevin George – EPI-4

Environmental Protection Specialist – EPI-4

Date: July 11, 2019