

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Olympia District, Olympia TLM, 2020 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project Manager: Tina Edwards, TEP-TPP-1

PP&A Project. #: 4430

Location: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, and Thurston counties, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace deteriorating wood pole structures and any associated hardware and guys at the below locations in BPA’s Olympia TLM Maintenance District. For all structures, the work would include removing the existing wood pole structures (and guy wires if present) and replacing them with in-kind in the same location.

Where needed, the project also includes improvements to existing access roads and landings associated with the below-mentioned transmission line rights-of-way that currently inhibit access at the specified locations for routine maintenance. Dependent on the structure location and access road conditions, the project may include surface improvements of existing road surfaces and landings (blading and rocking) as well as improvements and in-kind replacements of existing drainage features.

See table below for structure names and locations on the transmission lines.

| Transmission Line | Structure(s) | Township | Range | Section | Land Use |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|---------|---------------------|
| Chehalis-Olympia No. 1 | 18/8 | 16N | 3W | 35 | DNR |
| Fairmount-Port Angeles No. 1 | 11/6 | 29N | 3W | 5 | R.R. / Private Ag |
| | 16/5 | 30N | 4W | 33 | R.R. / Private Ag |
| Fairmount-Port Angeles No. 2 | 16/2 | 30N | 4W | 34 | R.R. / Private Ag |
| Olympia-Shelton No.1 | 15/6 | 19N | 4W | 1 | Private Timber |
| Olympia-Shelton No. 2 | 6/3 | 18N | 3W | 22 | DNR |
| | 15/4 | 19N | 4W | 12 | Private Timber |
| | 15/5, 15/8 | 19N | 4W | 1 | R.R. Private Timber |
| Satsop Park-Cosmopolis No. 1 | 7/3 | 17N | 7W | 17 | Private Timber |
| | 8/5 | 17N | 7W | 19 | Private Timber |
| | 10/2 | 17N | 8W | 23 | Private Timber |
| | 12/1 | 17N | 8W | 27 | Private Timber |
| | 12/6 | 17N | 8W | 28 | Private Timber |
| | 15/2 | 17N | 8W | 19 | Private Timber |
| | 16/4 | 17N | 9W | 23 | Private Timber |
| Shelton-Fairmount No. 1 | 5/4 | 21N | 4W | 35 | Private Timber |
| Shelton-Fairmount No. 2 | 15/8, 16/3 | 22N | 4W | 10 | Pvt. Timber / DNR |
| | 19/5 | 23N | 4W | 25 | DNR |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----|-----|------|--------------------|
| | 31/5 | 24N | 3W | 12 | Private Timber |
| | 53/3 | 28N | 1W | 31 | DNR |
| South Elma-Satsop No. 1 | 1/8, 1/9 | 17N | 6W | 12 | Private Ag. |
| Port Angeles-Sappho No. 1 | 4/5 | 30N | 6W | 17 | Rural Residential |
| | 6/4 | 30N | 7W | 13 | Private Timber |
| | 7/7, 8/2 | 30N | 7W | 15 | R.R. / Pvt. Ag |
| | 9/5 | 30N | 7W | 9 | R.R. / Pvt. Timber |
| | 10/3 | 30N | 7W | 8 | R.R. / Pvt. Timber |
| | 14/3, 14/8 | 30N | 8W | 3 | R.R. / Pvt. Timber |
| | 17/7, 18/1 | 31N | 8W | 31 | Rural Residential |
| | 18/8, 18/9 | 31N | 9W | 36 | Rural Residential |
| | 20/1 | 31N | 9W | 35 | Private Timber |
| | 32/4 | 30N | 11W | PB46 | USFS |

(Land use acronyms: R.R.: Rural Residential, Pvt. Ag: Private Agricultural, Pvt. Timber: Private Timber)

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/ Greg Tippetts

Greg Tippetts EPR/Olympia

Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 18, 2020

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

All work would be done in existing managed rights-of-way that cross Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), USFS, private timber, and private rural residential and agricultural lands.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation were completed for the project APEs. No resources were identified in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. Due to flooding conditions during field survey work, structures 1/8 and 1/9 of the South Elma-Satsop No. 1 were not able to be surveyed for cultural resources. As agreed to during consultation with WA DAHP, BPA will provide an onsite cultural monitor to be present at these locations during all phases of the replacement activity. On February 24th 2020, BPA sent Washington DAHP and any potentially effected tribes, letters with the determination that the project would result in no adverse effects to cultural resources. On February 27th 2020, Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of no effect to cultural resources. No tribes sent a response to the determination within the required thirty-day timeframe; therefore, concurrence is implied. If resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease and the appropriate archaeological resources (BPA and WA DAHP) would be contacted.</p> | | |
| 2. Geology and Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Upon completion of project activities, sites would be stabilized with native seed mix, or erosion control materials. Stormwater BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding area from runoff and erosion issues.</p> | | |
| 3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor; minimal vegetation may be removed at the pole location sites. No special-status species are present. Disturbed sites would be restored with native seed mix.</p> | | |
| 4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in areas maintained as an open transmission line corridor with little wildlife habitat. One project location, 32/4 of the Port Angeles-Sappho line is located within designated critical habitat for Marbled Murrelets and Northern Spotted owls. The structure replacement is highly localized to the existing site and all work will be confined to the existing right of way. No trees or other vegetation that could be</p> | | |

potential nesting habitat will be removed during the project. USFWS does not believe this area is currently occupied by Marbled Murrelets or Northern Spotted owls. Work at this site will occur during the night time hours. This will allow for no work during the dawn and dusk timing restrictions to avoid disturbing any potentially present birds.

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



Explanation Structures 1/8 and 1/9 of the South Elma-Satsop No. 1 are on both sides of the Chehalis river crossing. The structures are located just outside cultivated agricultural land. No other project sites are located near any streams or waterways where erosion would be an issue. For all sites, appropriate stormwater BMPs would be used during the project to protect the surrounding areas from runoff and erosion issues. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. No FEMA-mapped floodplains are mapped within the project site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are within the project boundaries.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Project activities do not have the potential to impact groundwater or aquifers, including public and private water wells or springs. All spills would be addressed immediately and follow BPA protocol for cleanup and regulatory notifications.

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



Explanation: The project locations are confined to the existing transmission line ROW corridors. Surrounding land uses include Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), US Forest service, private timber, and private rural residential and agricultural properties. Project locations do not include any special designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed action at existing facilities would not alter or effect visual quality. Structure replacements are in-kind and would not be visibly different from the existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project has a short duration and involves normal construction equipment activities. A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is expected due to construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The project is located away from any populated areas and places of residence. Noise disturbance would be limited to general construction equipment activities, would be for a short duration, Most pole replacement work locations would occur during daylight hours. Outages for the Port Angeles-Sappho transmission line involve turning off the electricity to several towns served by the Sappho Substation. For this reason structures 20/1 and 32/4 will be replaced during a night time outage.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known hazardous conditions are known. Completion of this project would increase system stability and reliability to the service area.

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: Notifications via mailed letters have been sent to all current landowners approximately 3-8 weeks prior to project initiation. The letters provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners/managers concerning the proposed project.

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

Signed: /s/ Greg Tippetts
Greg Tippetts KEPR/Olympia
Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Date: May 18, 2020