



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

April 14, 2021

Reply to Attn of: Nancy Wittpenn, ECT-4

Subject: CX Determination – BPA/Centralia City Light Asset Transfer

To: Jay Largo - TPCV-TPP-4

Attached to this letter is BPA's CX Determination for the BPA/Centralia City Light Asset Transfer. Also included is the CX checklist that supports this determination.

Please be aware that if project changes are required that involve new locations to be disturbed not analyzed as part of the CX (such as landing pads, relocations, access road widening, tree clearing, new structures, etc.), you need to immediately contact me, the EC environmental lead, at 503-230-3297 to determine if additional environmental review is required.

/s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn  
Environmental Protection Specialist

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** BPA/Centralia City Light Asset Transfer

**Project No.:** 2001021

**Project Manager:** Jay Largo, TPCV-TPP-4

**Location:** Lewis County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to transfer ownership of its Centralia - May Street 69-kilovolt (kV) No. 1 transmission line and easement (.16 miles) and May Street - B Street 69-kV No. 1 line and easement (0.08-mile-long) to Centralia City Light (Centralia). In exchange, Centralia would transfer ownership of the Chehalis - Centralia 69-kV No. 2 line between structures 14/4 and 14/7 (.12 miles) and its line easement to BPA. This section of line is currently leased by BPA.

This asset transfer allows BPA to have contiguous ownership of the Chehalis-Centralia No. 2 line and Centralia to own the transmission lines that only serve Centralia substations. No ground disturbance would occur from this asset transfer and the transmission lines would continue to be operated as built by BPA and Centralia. The underlying land is private or public road right-of-way and would not be included in the asset transfer.

**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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange April 14, 2021

Katey C. Grange                      Date  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

BECC:

N. Wittpenn – ECT-4

H. Adams – LN-7

M. Connolly – LN-7

W. Jansen – TERR-OLYMPIA

J. Brank – TPCF-OLYMPIA

J. Largo – TPCV-TPP-4

M. Jackson – TSE-TPP-2

Official File – EC (EQ-15)

NAWittpenn:naw:3297:04\_014\_2021

[https://portal.bud.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/CX-BPA\\_Centralia City Light Asset Transfer.docx](https://portal.bud.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/CX-BPA_Centralia_City_Light_Asset_Transfer.docx)

# 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:** BPA/Centralia City Light Asset Transfer

## **Project Site Description**

The transmission line assets are located in Township 14 North, Range 2 West, sections DC 48 and 6. The Chehalis - Centralia line section runs north/south parallel to Johnson Road and is contained within public road right-of-way. The area under this section of line is extremely disturbed, consisting of asphalt, gravel, grasses, weeds, and a few landscaped bushes. The surrounding area is a mix of light industrial, commercial, and single-family home uses. The Centralia - May Street and May Street - B lines are within several public road rights-of-way, parking lots, and substation yards. The same paved and gravel conditions occur under these lines and the surrounding area is also a mix of light industrial, commercial, and single-family home uses.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA Contract Archaeologist reviewed the project and determined the federal undertaking has no potential to affect historic properties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No disturbance to soils, nor impacts to geology are expected from the asset transfers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not have the potential to affect ESA-listed plants or their habitat. The line rights-of-way are extremely disturbed and no known ESA-listed plant species occur in the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not have the potential to affect ESA-listed wildlife or their habitat. The line rights-of-way are extremely disturbed and no known ESA-listed wildlife species occur in the project area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not affect any water bodies, floodplains, or fish as none are present in the area.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not affect any wetlands as none are present in the area.

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not affect any groundwater or aquifers that may be in the area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not change or alter the designated land use. No specially-designated areas occur in the surrounding area.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not change nor alter the visual quality of the surrounding area.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not affect air quality.

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not affect noise levels in the surrounding area.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The asset transfers would not affect human health and safety.

**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: N/A

**Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.**

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

#### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The BPA Realty Specialist would continue to work with the City of Centralia to transfer assets.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn April 14, 2021  
Nancy A. Wittpenn, ECT-4 Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist