

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Filbert Tap to Forest Grove-McMinnville No. 1 Danger Tree Removal Project

PP&A No.: 6922

Project Manager: Alla Kirsanova – TIPL-TPP-1

Location: Washington County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, 2.(e)(12) Harvest of live trees not to exceed 70 acres...

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to remove and/or trim about 35 danger and hazard trees along the Filbert Tap to Forest Grove No. 1 transmission line between structures 1/2 and 1/5. All tree work would be done by hand and chainsaws, and the removed tree limbs and tops would be chipped and removed from the site. Trees would be cut at ground level or higher. The project would need to remove the cut logs from the area with small ground equipment. Equipment would include, but not be limited to, work trucks and a woodchipper.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, repair, relocate, and replace the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto. (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838i(b)). The Administrator is further charged with maintaining electrical stability and reliability, selling transmission and interconnection services, and providing service to BPA's customers. (16 U.S.C § 838b(b-d)). The Administrator is also authorized to conduct electrical research, development, experimentation, tests, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities. (16 U.S.C § 838i(b)(3)).

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures*, BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Steven D. Selser

Steven D. Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey C. Grange

Date: March 9, 2026

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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

The project would be located on BPA's Filbert Tap – Forest Grove/McMinnville No1 transmission line, on the corner of Tualatin Valley Highway (HWY 47) and Southwest Fern Hill Road, in Washington County Oregon. The underlying land is owned by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). There is a railroad track, roughly 65 feet away to the southeast, running parallel to our transmission line. Land use in the area is primarily for vehicular traffic and railway transit; there are also industrial property, a water treatment facility and a residential property nearby.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: On January 28, 2026, BPA initiated consultation that detailed the proposed project and determined that the project would result in no historic properties affected. Consulting parties included the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, ODOT, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The 30-day comment period for the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation ended on February 27, 2026 (OR SHPO Case No. 25-2277; BPA CR Project No. OR 2026 002). No responses were received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during tree cutting activities. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to surrounding vegetation is anticipated. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species. No impacts to state or federally sensitive species are anticipated. Project activities would not substantially alter existing plant communities.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have a small impact on wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with elevated equipment noise and human presence. Due to the project location adjacent to roadways, a railroad, and industrial land uses, the project area does not provide high quality habitat. The project would have no impacts to

state or federally listed sensitive species with the implementation of the minimization measures identified below.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is not located within a floodplain and there are no nearby water bodies that support resident, anadromous, or ESA-listed fish. Erosion control best management practices combined with the distance to the nearest waterbody would ensure that sedimentation would not enter into any water body.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are within the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use. No specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-way and would be consistent with the visual appearance of the existing right-of-way.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which 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: 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: All activities have been coordinated with landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Steven Selser

Steven Selser
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: March 9, 2026