

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Chief Joseph-Monroe No. 1 Mile 57 Access Road Work

**PP&A No.:** 4039

**Project Manager:** Donna Martin – TELF-TPP-1

**Location:** Chelan County, 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) proposes to address erosion on the existing access road located at mile 57 of the Chief Joseph-Monroe No. 1 transmission line. To facilitate drainage and reduce further erosion, BPA proposes to install two culverts and one drain dip, as well as import rock to resurface the road. The proposed work is necessary to maintain existing infrastructure and roadway safety.

All proposed work would occur within the existing, vegetated right-of-way corridor on flat to steep terrain with mostly grassy and shrubby vegetation. The areas of improvement would be accessed using the existing BPA access roads, though equipment and personnel may be required to traverse off-road for staging. All work would be completed on privately-owned land within the BPA right-of-way (ROW). Equipment used to perform this work may include a combination of the following: dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, and work trucks. All disturbed areas would be restored at the end of the project.

**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/ Emma Reinemann*

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 7, 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.

### Proposed Action: Chief Joseph-Monroe Mile 57 Access Road Work

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#### Project Site Description

The proposed project will be conducted on mile 57 of the Chief Joseph-Monroe No. 1 line. The area requiring improvement is located within a BPA easement on privately-owned land and the surrounding land use is rural residential. The majority of the work would be completed on the existing access road. Vegetation in the area is grassy with some shrubs.

#### 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area was visited by BPA archaeologists on December 3, 2018, who observed that the roads are located on a relatively steep slope and have been severely disturbed from use and erosion. It was determined that the project has no potential to affect historic properties.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; DAHP; and the appropriate local, state, and Federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would occur within the existing road prism. The improvements would likely conserve soil resources by reducing ponding and soil erosion within the roadway. Erosion and sediment controls would be used during construction and until final stabilization is reached.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federal or state special-status species present in the project area. The proposed work would occur within the existing road prism so vegetation disturbance would be minimal. Vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entry into the project area to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p>		

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



Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project and there are no floodplains present within the proposed work area. The proposed culverts and drain dips are for potential seasonal flows. The project would reduce the likelihood of discharging sediment to the Wenatchee River, which is located approximately 250 feet to the west of the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures will be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: The Ponderosa Community Club trail system utilizes the BPA access road and would be temporarily impacted by improvements. Land use would remain unchanged at the end of the project. No specially designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact human health or 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, if necessary: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

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

Description: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann  
Emma Reinemann  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: January 7, 2019