

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Forest Grove-McMinnville No. 1 Urgent Wood Pole Replacement of Structure 13/4

PP&A No.: 4833

Project Manager: Jeff Hurt, TEPL-TPP-2

Location: Yamhill County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the 13/4 wood pole structure on the Forest Grove-McMinnville No. 1 transmission line. During a routine line inspection, a large woodpecker hole was identified on the structure which would need to be replaced immediately as it poses a threat of falling or causing additional damage during high winds. Failure of the pole poses a substantial risk in terms of fire, public safety, and system reliability. The damaged pole would be replaced in-kind, using the same pole type, material, and hardware. The structure would be replaced in the same hole and the existing access road and landings would be used without improvement. New anchors would be needed approximately 10 feet ahead and back on line from the existing anchors.

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/ Aaron Shurtliff
Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange
Katey C. Grange Date: July 8, 2022
NEPA Compliance Officer

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

The project site is located in a flat rural grassy field on private property. The nearest water body is a forested wetland located approximately 200 feet to the north.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: On May 27, 2022 BPA initiated consultation with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the Forest Grove-McMinnville No. 1 Structure 13/4 Urgent Pole Replacement Project (BPA CR Project No.: OR 2022 100). BPA did not receive any responses from consulting parties. On June 17, 2022 BPA contract archaeologist conducted a cultural resource survey of the 0.45-acre area of potential effect (APE) and no cultural resources were identified. On June 27, 2022 BPA determined the proposed project would have no effect to historic properties. In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: Ground disturbance would include excavation to remove the existing wood poles, install the new poles, and to replace the pole anchors. Excavated soils would be temporarily stored onsite, backfilled, and then graded to original contours.

Notes:

- BPA would implement best management practices (BMPs) to address temporary erosion and sediment control, if required.
- BPA would minimize the work area and route of access to the smallest necessary to safely complete the project.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary wildlife disturbance could occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status wildlife species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The nearest water body is a forested wetland approximately 200 feet to the north and would not be impacted during this project.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The nearest water body is a forested wetland approximately 200 feet to the north and would not be impacted during this project.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No excavation would occur below groundwater level.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have no change to existing land use, and is not in a specially-designated area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The wood pole structure would be replaced in-kind and would have no change to the existing visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction activities would result in a minor and temporary increase in dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. There would be no long-term change in air quality following completion of the project.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, use of vehicles and equipment and general construction activities would create noise above current ambient conditions. There are no noise-sensitive

receptors near the project site, and there would be no long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the project.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work crews would follow appropriate safety precautions. Final site conditions would be consistent with existing conditions.

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 proposed work would occur within BPA's existing easements on private property. Project activities would be coordinated with the landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff
Aaron Shurtliff, EP-AMPN-2
Environmental Engineer

Date: July 8, 2022