

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chemawa TLM District FY18 Wood Pole Replacements

PP&A No.: 3948

Project Manager: Sarah Hall – TEPL-TPP-1

Location: Tillamook, Yamhill, Clackamas, Polk, Linn, and Washington counties, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform in-kind replacement of wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along several transmission lines. Replacement poles would be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-augered to assure proper depth placement. Minor maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings is scheduled to be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of waterbars and drain dips. Refer to the table below for wood pole replacement locations.

Transmission Line	Structures	TRS	County
Boyer-Tillamook No. 1	16/2	T4S R10W SEC12	Tillamook
Carlton-Tillamook No. 1	5/1	T3S R4W SEC32	Yamhill
	5/8	T3S R4W SEC30	
	30/4	T2S R8W SEC17	Tillamook
	35/8	T2S R9W SEC9	
Oregon City-Chemawa No. 2	1/7	T3S R1W SEC11	Clackamas
	4/3	T3S R1W SEC26	
Salem-Grand Ronde No. 1	15/7, 15/8, 15/9, 16/1, 16/2	T6S R6W SEC36	Polk
	18/4, 18/5, 18/6	T6S R6W SEC27	
	20/1	T6S R6W SEC20	
Santiam-Alvey No. 1 & 2	1/1	T9S R1E SEC22	Linn
Timber Tap to Forest Grove-Tillamook No. 1	11/2	T3N R5W SEC15	Washington

The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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: July 1, 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: Chemawa TLM District FY18 Wood Pole Replacements

Project Site Description

The project area consists of the proposed structure replacement locations, transmission line right of ways, and access road easements along the following wood pole transmission lines located in Tillamook, Yamhill, Clackamas, Polk, Linn, and Washington counties, Oregon:

- Boyer-Tillamook No. 1 (115 kV)
- Carlton-Tillamook No. 1 (230 kV)
- Oregon City-Chemawa No. 2(115 kV)
- Salem-Grand Ronde No. 1 (115 kV)
- Santiam-Alvey No. 1 & 2 (230 kV)
- Timber Tap to Forest Grove-Tillamook No. 1 (115 kV)

The above transmission lines are situated on private small woodlot owners, cultivated lands, and urban areas. Primary land uses include residential, timber production, and farming. Fish-bearing streams are found within the rights of way.

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 survey was performed at all wood pole replacement locations, associated landings, and proposed road improvement locations. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. DAHP concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to historic properties determination on May 9, 2019.</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. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacements, landing improvements, and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal/state special-status plants or habitat present. Access road work and additional landings would not be required. Vegetation would be crushed and left in place, rather than bladed. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way; therefore, plant habitat would not</p>		

be affected.

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



Explanation: No Federal/state special-status species or habitat present. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would not be affected.

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



Explanation: Listed fish species may inhabit waterbodies that are within ½-mile of the transmission lines. By implementing the following mitigation measures while working near water bodies, there would be no effect on water bodies, floodplains, and fish:

- Trees and brush in riparian zones would be selectively cut to include only those that are in violation of current BPA ground to conductor clearance electrical safety standards.
- Trees would be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer near water bodies.
- No ground-disturbing vegetation management methods would be implemented near water resources thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near water bodies.
- Erosion control devices would be utilized to reduce sedimentation of any nearby water resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present in the vicinity of the proposed pole replacement locations.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



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**



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

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right of ways. Replacement of wood poles and associated components would be in kind and replaced in the same location.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be a small amount of dust and vehicle emissions from construction activity.

11. **Noise**



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

12. **Human Health and Safety**



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, 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: BPA Realty personnel would perform landowner notifications within 30-days prior to project initiation and any concerns regarding proposed transmission line maintenance activities would be addressed.

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 – EPR-4
Physical Scientist - Environmental

Date: July 1, 2019