

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: City of Ellensburg Guy Wire Installation

Project No.: Land Use Review Request #20140453

Project Manager: Daniel Nunez, TELP-TPP-3

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 – Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to remove an existing guy wire and anchor and install a new guy wire and anchor on its East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 line, located in Kittitas County, Washington. A guy wire is a tensioned cable designed to add stability to the line structures. The existing guy wire and anchor must be removed to accommodate a new sidewalk constructed by the City of Ellensburg (the City). All work would take place within the City's right-of-way (ROW). BPA has a franchise agreement with the City that allows BPA to maintain its structures within the City's ROW.

BPA would install a new guy wire and anchor at structure 3/16 on the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 line. Workers would remove a section of the sidewalk, excavate a four-foot by four-foot hole with a depth of eight to ten feet, install a new anchor and cover it with backfill, and install the new guy wire and three to five guy-strain insulators. Workers would then dead-end the span of ground wire at structure 3/16 and move to structure 3/15 to remove the span of ground wire between these two structures. BPA would then remove the existing guy wire and anchor, located at structure 3/15 on the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 line. Workers would cut the anchor rod just below the ground surface and level and compact the gravel surface. Concrete would be poured to complete the sidewalk. Equipment to be used would include a bucket truck, a dump trailer loaded with rock, two pickup trucks, and a vacuum truck. Equipment would be staged in the area surrounding both structures.

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/ Hannah Sharp

Hannah Sharp
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 03/06/2015

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 on City of Ellensburg ROW along N. Pfenning Rd. in Kittitas County, Washington. Work would take place at structures 3/15 and 3/16 of BPA’s East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 line. The site has been previously disturbed for road, sidewalk, and residential construction. The surrounding landscape includes active farming and suburban development.

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"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> WA SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination 1/5/15. Yakama Tribe consulted—no response. | | |
| 2. Geology and Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance in developed area. | | |
| 3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species present. | | |
| 4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitat present. | | |
| 5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No potential to affect floodplains or water bodies. No in-water work proposed. | | |

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately ten feet.

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

Explanation: All work within City of Ellensburg ROW; project area has been previously disturbed for road and residential construction.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: New guy wire would not be noticeably different from existing guy wire.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction activities.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety from the proposed project.

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: No notification—all work within BPA easement and no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Hannah Sharp
Hannah Sharp, KEC-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
CorSource Technology Group

Date: 03/6/2015