

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ross-Lexington 12/2 Tower Stabilization Project

Project No. (if applicable): PP&A-2877

Project Manager: Kerry Cook

Location: Clark County, Washington.

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The project would include installing 112 soil nails around the base of structure 12/2 on the Ross-Lexington #1 transmission line to stabilize the tower by preventing any further soil sloughing. Nails are 1.5 inch in diameter, 20 feet long, and will be placed approximately 5 feet apart in a diamond pattern into the soil around the base of the tower. The nails would also hold in place a galvanized wire mesh laid flush on the ground. Approximately 100 tons of subbase aggregate would be added to 100 feet of the road adjacent to the tower to allow equipment access.

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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 21, 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

Project is located on the western-most point of a terrace overlooking the East Fork of the Lewis River on private property. Structure is surrounded by low growing vegetation.

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> The project will have minimal ground disturbance in previously disturbed around structure 12/2. A letter was sent to SHPO and the Cowlitz Tribe on April 23, 2015 recommending a finding of no effect on cultural resources. No reply was received from SHPO or the Cowlitz Tribe.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil surrounding the structure will be stabilized, preventing further sloughing.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No listed plant species in the project area		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No listed wildlife or habitat in the project area		
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 in-water work is planned and no listed fish species within the project area		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands within the project area

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Groundwater will not be affected

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

Explanation: Consistent with the existing land use

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change to visual quality

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Some temporary dust during construction

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary noise during construction

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Project will improve the safety of working on or around this structure.

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: Crew will coordinate with the landowner as needed during the work.

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

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff
Aaron Shurtliff, KEPR-4

Date: July 21, 2015