Categorical Exclusion Determination
Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Sale of Structure 2/6 of East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 Line

Project Manager: Joan Kendall

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to transfer ownership of the wooden pole at Mile 2, Structure 6, of the East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 transmission line, to the City of Ellensburg. BPA is updating the structures along this span of the transmission line and would otherwise abandon or remove the subject pole; however, the City of Ellensburg has requested that the pole remain for their use. There is no ground disturbance proposed for this action.

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/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing
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:** Sale of Structure 2/6 of East Ellensburg Tap to Columbia-Ellensburg No. 1 Line

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**Project Site Description**

The proposed wooden pole asset transfer is located in a utility right-of-way, on the south side of East Helena Ave. The site is surrounded by residential sub-divisions to the south, east, and west; and a large undeveloped field to the north. The topography is flat. Grasses dominate the vegetation at the subject location. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies at the site.

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**Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resource Impacts</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No ground disturbance proposed. The project was reviewed and it was determined that the subject pole is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Geology and Soils</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. **Wetlands**

   **Explanation:**
   No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

   **Explanation:**
   No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

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

   **Explanation:**
   No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

9. **Visual Quality**

   **Explanation:**
   No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

10. **Air Quality**

    **Explanation:**
    No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

11. **Noise**

    **Explanation:**
    No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

    **Explanation:**
    No ground disturbance proposed. Transfer of property only.

**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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: There would be no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: **/s/ Beth Belanger**

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: **March 21, 2016**