Categorical Exclusion Determination  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy

**Proposed Action:** PGE Transmission Line Right-of-Way on BPA Fee-Property

**Project No.:** LURR 20170407

**Project Manager:** Jim Clark TERR-Chemawa

**Location:** Washington County, Oregon

**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 grant PGE a pole-line easement across BPA fee-owned property located north of BPA’s Keeler Substation and Highway 26 in Washington County, Oregon. The easement would allow PGE to install four 230-kV steel poles as part of its new 230-kV Horizon Transmission Line and would provide PGE operation and maintenance rights on that portion of line on BPA property.

PGE would install the four steel-pole structures, including two dead-end structures—one pole structure would be 3-foot in diameter embedded in the ground; three of the steel poles would require a 6- to 9-foot diameter concrete foundation varying between 25-39 feet deep. The poles would be 50 to 135 feet tall. Three overhead wires (conductor) would be installed on the poles using conductor pulling and tensioning equipment.

To place each pole, an auger drill rig would excavate a hole. Spoils would be stockpiled on the ground near the hole. The pole would be placed in the hole and the remaining void would be backfilled using ¾ inch minus gravel or controlled density fill. Installation of each pole would result in a 50-foot-diameter impact area from vehicle turning, material laydown, and spoils placement.

The project would be accessed using an existing farm road. Equipment would drive through the farm field for temporary access to each individual structure during construction. The farm field would be regraded and returned to its original state after construction is complete. No new access roads would be constructed on BPA fee-property. All work would occur during the dry season when soils are firm and erosion potential is low. PGE would avoid impacts to a wetland that bisects the property.

**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.

\textit{/s/ Claire McClory}  
Claire McClory  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

\textit{/s/ Stacy L. Mason}  
Stacy L. Mason  
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.

Proposed Action: PGE Transmission Line Right-of-Way on BPA Fee-Property

Project Site Description

The project area is located North of BPAs Keeler Substation and Highway 26 in Washington County, Oregon. The site is occupied by several exiting transmission line structures. The underlying land is active farmland. The surrounding area is well developed. Adjacent land uses include recreational facilities, medium density housing, an Elementary School, and the Highway 26 and NW Cornelius Pass interchange.

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><strong>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation: The Area of Potential Effect has been subjected to multiple archaeological inventories which consisted of both surface and subsurface investigation. None of the surveys identified cultural properties in the area. No further Section 106 review is needed for this project (B. O'Donnchadha, BPA archaeologist, 3/14/18).</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ The contractor shall have a copy of BPAs Inadvertent Discovery Plan on file. The plan will be used to notify the appropriate parties in the event that historic material is identified during construction.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Geology and Soils</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation: Construction would occur in the dry season when soils are compacted.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Install construction silt fence downgradient of soil disturbance areas, particularly at new pole locations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Install bio bags around catch basins that are downgradient from soil disturbance areas along the project corridor, particularly at new pole locations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Install bio bags around any downgradient culverts within 20 feet of construction activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Cover any loose soil piles that remain for longer than 4 hours.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation: Area is actively managed as farmland. No special-status species present.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation: No special status species present.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation: None present.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **Wetlands**

   **Explanation:** A wetland that bisects the property would be avoided entirely. No temporary access or construction disturbance would impact the wetland.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

   **Explanation:** No impact.

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

   **Explanation:** Temporary impacts to agricultural farm use during construction. Land would continue to be used for transmission lines and farm operations. Negligible permanent impact to farmland operations with new pole structure placement.

9. **Visual Quality**

   **Explanation:** New transmission line structures would not be noticeably different from existing and adjacent transmission structures.

10. **Air Quality**

    **Explanation:** Temporary vehicle dust and emissions during construction.

    ✓ Ensure vehicles used for construction are kept clean to prevent tracking of dirt/mud on roadways

11. **Noise**

    **Explanation:** Temporary noise during construction during daytime hours. Negligible increase in operational noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

    **Explanation:** No impact.

---

**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 owns the property in fee and PGE is working with affected landowners regarding the remainder of their Horizon Transmission line.

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

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory  
Date: March 23, 2018

Claire McClory ECT-4