Categorical Exclusion Determination
Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

**Proposed Action:** FY15 Snohomish District Danger Pole Replacement Project

**PP&A #:** 3178

**Project Manager:** Cynthia Rounds

**Location:** Snohomish County, WA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmission Line/ROW</th>
<th>Structure #</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>County, State</th>
<th>Ownership/Land Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish- Beverly Park #4</td>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>28N</td>
<td>5E</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Snohomish, WA</td>
<td>Puget Sound Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish- Murray #1</td>
<td>13/4</td>
<td>30N</td>
<td>5E</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Snohomish, WA</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) at the locations specified in the Location Section of this document. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. New landing construction or access road development is not planned at these locations. Minor maintenance of landing and roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required.

The proposed action will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will 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/ Chad Browning
Chad Browning
Environmental Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason Date: April 23, 2015
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: FY15 Snohomish District Danger Pole Replacement Project

Project Site Description

Grass & shrub right-of-way surrounded by residential and rural residential land.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resource</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Explanation: According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The proposed action is considered to be routine access road maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage stormwater run-off and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Poles will be placed in existing locations. New landing construction is not planned or anticipated. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Geology and Soils</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Explanation: The project will require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Explanation: No trees will be removed; about 450 square feet of grasses/shrubs will be disturbed (mostly non-native or invasive species).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Explanation: No suitable habitat is present in project area for listed wildlife species. The work will also entail minimal human disturbance.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**
   (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)
   - [X]
   - [ ]
   **Explanation:** None present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**
   - [X]
   - [ ]
   **Explanation:** None present in project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**
   - [X]
   - [ ]
   **Explanation:** The proposed work is in an upland area; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**
   - [X]
   - [ ]
   **Explanation:** No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.

9. **Visual Quality**
   - [X]
   - [ ]
   **Explanation:** New wood poles will be similar to existing structures would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.

10. **Air Quality**
    - [X]
    - [ ]
    **Explanation:** Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**
    - [X]
    - [ ]
    **Explanation:** Construction noise will be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**
    - [X]
    - [ ]
    **Explanation:** Project activities will not impact human health or safety.

### Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- [X] 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:**

- [X] 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:**

- [X] 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:** Notification letters will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to all landowners prior to work.

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

**Signed:** /s/ Chad Browning  
Chad Browning  
Environmental Protection Specialist  

**Date:** April 23, 2015