SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

- 1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Prosser Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain Transmission Line
- 2. Name of applicant: Bonneville Power Authority
- 3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: 905 NE 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97208, Clinton Carpenter, Phone: (503) 545-9017, Email: cscarpenter@bpa.gov

- 4. Date checklist prepared: 02/14/2024
- Agency requesting checklist: DNR
- 6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Spring 2024
- 7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. None known at this time.
- 8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. NEPA Categorial Exclusion.
- 9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. None known.
- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. Easement from DNR.
- 11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) 115kV bypass line. switch upgrade to be constructed to BPA's existing 115kV Grandview-Red Mt. transmission line. BPA proposes to rebuild and reconfigure a disconnect switch system along the Grandview-Red Mountain No. 1 Transmission Line at Prosser Tap. The Prosser Tap Switches are located on the north side of West Snipes Road and east of North Hinzerling Road approximately six miles north of the city of Prosser, WA. The existing switches are over 70 years old and have reached their end of service life. This CX has been updated to reflect easement acquisition on Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - managed lands. BPA proposes to remove the existing switch at structure 1/2 and construct a new switch on a permanent bypass, which would be located along the north side of the Grandview-Red Mountain No. 1 Transmission Line. The legs of the old switch stand, and platform would be cut off just below the surface and the footings would be left in place. A temporary shoofly consisting of six wood poles with guys on five of them would be installed to keep the city of Prosser energized during construction. These poles would be installed in new holes and be in place for approximately six weeks.

Everything will be steel - no wood structures.

The switch will be installed on a steel switch stand exactly like the two switches already onsite and installed. It's about 24' wide and 27' tall. The structure next to the switch will also be similar to what's there now, but shorter. It will be a 60' tall 2-pole structure whereas the existing ones are 75' tall. It'll be just over 24' wide just like the two already onsite.

The two structures on the ends/corners of the bypass will be 3-pole steel structures. The one on the west will be 50' tall and the one on the east will be 45' tall. They'll both be about 33' wide.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. See attached maps and survey.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: The project area is located next to a two lane rural highway with shallow ditches on either side with weedy species in the medians and ditches. The switch structure on the south side of the highway is adjacent to a fruit orchard and has weedy species under and immediately surrounding it. The two switch structures on the north side of the highway are on Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property in previously-cultivated fields with low grassy vegetation and weedy species present. The project area is gently sloping to the west and south. No water bodies, floodplains, or wetlands exist in or near the project area.

(circle one)	: Flat. rolling	a. hillv. s	teep slopes.	mountainous,	other	
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- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? The project area sits on gently sloping ground with sparse vegetation. The light loess soils are subject to erosion due to ground disturbance, but since the site does not have steep slopes the likelihood of sediment transport from erosion is low. Due to the small footprint of the project, only minor impacts to geology and soils are expected.
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. The project area sits on gently sloping ground with sparse vegetation. The light loess soils are subject to erosion due to ground disturbance, but since the site does not have steep slopes the likelihood of sediment transport from erosion is low. Due to the small footprint of the project, only minor impacts to geology and soils are expected.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. None known.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. The project area is small and adjacent to a paved highway where the medians are regularly mowed, so weed transport into and out of the project area is expected to be minimal. Overall, about 0.62 acres of land would be disturbed during project installation.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. The light loess soils are subject to erosion due to ground disturbance, but since the site does not have steep slopes the likelihood of sediment transport from erosion is low. Due to the small footprint of the project, only minor impacts to geology and soils are expected.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Outside of the of 3 structures and the switch, BPA does not plan to cover the site with any impervious surfaces and will leave the native soil in place.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

The project area sits on gently sloping ground with sparse vegetation. The light loess soils are subject to erosion due to ground disturbance, but since the site does not have steep slopes the likelihood of sediment transport from erosion is low. Due to the small footprint of the project, only minor impacts to geology and soils are expected. Additionally, the likelihood of erosion will be low because the construction should take place when we don't anticipate significant rainfall.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. Updating the switch structures would not cause any long-term changes in air quality. Some short-term fugitive dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction. Only minor impacts to air quality are expected.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. None known.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: None due to low concern

3. Water

- a. Surface Water:
 - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. No water bodies or floodplains exist in or near the project area. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains or fish would occur.
 - 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. No.
 - 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. None.
 - 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No.
 - 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. No.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No areas of shallow groundwater are known to exist within or around the project area and construction activities are not expected to create pathways or materials that could affect groundwater or aguifers. No impacts to groundwater and aguifers are expected.
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. None.
- c. Water runoff (including stormwater):
 - Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. None.
 - 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. No.
 - 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. No.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: None.

4. Plants

Check the types of vegetation found on the site: The vegetation in the project area is primarily weedy species, although DNR appears to have planted native bunchgrass in the areas north of the project area. The project area is small and adjacent to a paved highway where the medians are regularly mowed, so weed transport into and out of the project area is expected to be minimal. No special-status plants are located in or near the project area. No new access roads or landings would be constructed and the footprint of the new switch structures are small impacts to plants are expected to be low.

	_deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other					
	_evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other					
	_shrubs					
X	grass					
	_pasture					
	_crop or grain					
	Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.					
	wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, othe					
	_water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other					
	other types of vegetation					

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? Weedy species, the project area is small and adjacent to a paved highway where the medians are regularly mowed, so weed transport into and out of the project area is expected to be minimal.
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. No special-status plants are located in or near the project area.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: None.
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. Weedy species, the project area is small and adjacent to a paved highway where the medians are regularly mowed, so weed transport into and out of the project area is expected to be minimal. No new access roads or landings would be constructed and the footprint of the new switch structures are small impacts to plants are expected to be low.

5. Animals

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other

None observed. Elk are noted within DNR's special concerns report in the entire section, and Townsend Ground Squirrel overlaps or is within 1000 feet of the section, comprising of approximately 66 acres.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. Elk.
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. None noted.
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: None.
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. None known.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

A temporary shoofly consisting of six wood poles with guys on five of them would be installed to keep the city of Prosser energized during construction. These poles would be installed in new holes and be in place for approximately six weeks.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: None.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. Replacement of the switches would not create conditions that would affect human health and safety. No hazardous materials beyond oil and gas products would be used during construction. No impacts to human health and safety are expected.
 - 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

 None.
 - 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. None.
 - 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. No hazardous materials beyond oil and gas products would be used during construction.
 - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. None.
 - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: No impacts to human health and safety are expected.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? No changes to current noise levels would occur with the long-term operation of the switches. Some temporary increases in noise levels due to construction equipment would occur during construction. Only minor noise impacts are expected.
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. No changes to current noise levels would occur with the long-term operation of the switches. Some temporary increases in noise levels due to construction equipment would occur during construction. Only minor noise impacts are expected.
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. No affect expected. The project area is located next to a two lane rural highway with shallow ditches on either side with weedy species in the medians and ditches. The switch structure on the south side of the

highway is adjacent to a fruit orchard and has weedy species under and immediately surrounding it. The two switch structures on the north side of the highway are on Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property in previously-cultivated fields with low grassy vegetation and weedy species present. The project area is gently sloping to the west and south. No water bodies, floodplains, or wetlands exist in or near the project area.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? No.
 - 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: None.
- c. Describe any structures on the site. Two switch structures on the north side of the highway.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? The legs of the old switch stand and platform would be cut off just below the surface and the footings would be left in place.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? DNR managed lands currently under a grazing lease.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? Grazing.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? None.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. No.
- Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? Work crews will be temporary.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: None.
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: BPA will work with the DNR's grazing lease permittee.
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: BPA will work with the DNR's grazing lease permittee. No other uses adjacent.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. None.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: None.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? No areas sensitive to changes in views (e.g., residences, etc.) are located near the project area. Some minor visual changes to the existing switch structures would be apparent to nearby viewers, but the new structures would appear similar to the existing ones. Only minor impacts to visual quality are expected.

The switch will be installed on a steel switch stand exactly like the two switches already onsite and installed. It's about 24' wide and 27' tall. The structure next to the switch will also be similar to what's there now, but shorter. It will be a 60' tall 2-pole structure whereas the existing ones are 75' tall. It'll be just over 24' wide just like the two already onsite.

The two structures on the ends/corners of the bypass will be 3-pole steel structures. The one on the west will be 50' tall and the one on the east will be 45' tall. They'll both be about 33' wide.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? No areas sensitive to changes in views (e.g., residences, etc.) are located near the project area. Some minor visual changes to the existing switch structures would be apparent to nearby viewers, but the new structures would appear similar to the existing ones. Only minor impacts to visual quality are expected.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: No areas sensitive to changes in views (e.g., residences, etc.) are located near the project area. Some minor visual changes to the existing switch structures would be apparent to nearby viewers, but the new structures would appear similar to the existing ones. Only minor impacts to visual quality are expected.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? No areas sensitive to changes in views (e.g., residences, etc.) are located near the project area. Some minor visual changes to the existing switch structures would be apparent to nearby viewers, but the new structures would appear similar to the existing ones. Only minor impacts to visual quality are expected.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? No areas sensitive to changes in views (e.g., residences, etc.) are located near the project area. Some minor visual changes to the existing switch structures would be apparent to nearby viewers, but the new structures would appear similar to the existing ones. Only minor impacts to visual quality are expected.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? None.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: None.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? No changes to land use, even in the new DNR easement location, would occur and there are no recreational uses of the DNR land that would be affected. Only minor impacts to land use or specially-designated areas are expected.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. No.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe. The Washington SHPO and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation were included in Section 106 consultation. BPA archeologists reviewed the site in the summer of 2022 and made a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties on October 24, 2022. The Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on October 24, 2022 and no other consulting parties responded within 30 days. Section 106 consultation concluded on November 23, 2022.
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. The Washington SHPO and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation were included in Section 106 consultation. BPA archeologists reviewed the site in the summer of 2022 and made a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties on October 24, 2022. The Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on October 24, 2022 and no other consulting parties responded within 30 days. Section 106 consultation concluded on November 23, 2022.
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. The Washington SHPO and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation were included in Section 106 consultation. BPA archeologists reviewed the site in the summer of 2022 and made a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties on October 24, 2022. The Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on October 24, 2022 and no other consulting parties responded within 30 days. Section 106 consultation concluded on November 23, 2022.
- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.
 The Washington SHPO and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation were included in Section 106 consultation. BPA archeologists reviewed the site in the summer of 2022 and made a determination of no adverse effect on historic properties on October 24, 2022. The Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on October 24, 2022 and

no other consulting parties responded within 30 days. Section 106 consultation concluded on November 23, 2022.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. The project area is located next to a two lane rural highway with shallow ditches on either side with weedy species in the medians and ditches. The switch structure on the south side of the highway is adjacent to a fruit orchard and has weedy species under and immediately surrounding it. The two switch structures on the north side of the highway are on Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) property in previously-cultivated fields with low grassy vegetation and weedy species present.
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? None known.
- c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). No.
- d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. No.
- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? No change from current use routine maintenance and inspection.
- f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. No.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: None.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. No.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. None.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
 electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
 other _____115kV bypass line, switch upgrade to be constructed to BPA's existing 115kV
 Grandview-Red Mt. transmission line. BPA proposes to rebuild and reconfigure a disconnect switch
 system along the Grandview-Red Mountain No. 1 Transmission Line at Prosser Tap.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might

be needed. 115kV bypass line, switch upgrade to be constructed to BPA's existing 115kV Grandview-Red Mt. transmission line. BPA proposes to rebuild and reconfigure a disconnect switch system along the Grandview-Red Mountain No. 1 Transmission Line at Prosser Tap.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:	/Erik Van Walden/	
Name of signe	eeErik Van Walden	
Position and A	Agency/OrganizationRight of Way Specialist, Engineering Division, WA DN	١R
Date Submitte	ed: 03/12/2024	