

Project title: Hazard Tree Removal: RDM-CW and KE-ODA Transmission Lines, Shasta County, CA

Requested By: Michael Prowatzke **Mail Code :** N0220 **Phone:** [916-353-4081](tel:916-353-4081)

Date Submitted: 12-26-2017 **Date Required:** 1-4-2018

Description of the Project:

To comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council and WAPA directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is proposing to remove two hazard trees near transmission lines in Shasta County. These trees have defects and pose a threat to the line in their current condition.

All stumps will be manually cut no higher than 4 inches above ground. Trees will be felled and left whole length with limbs lopped and scattered on site. Debris will not exceed 12 inches in height. Trees will not be dragged. No rubber or metal tracked machines will be used.

Schedule may be dependent on natural resources constraints but preference is to remove in January 2018.

Location of the Project:

Round Mountain-Cottonwood #1 230-kV span 3/3, and Keswick-Olinda #2 230-kV span 5/2.

Attachments: Maps, Letter of Concurrence

Work Order Number: 100153025

Action taken

Note: All Documentation is Attached

Categorical Exclusion (CX) Minimization
Integral Elements Other
NEPA Attachment Sheet

Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

 1/8/18

LaTisha Saare Date
Acting Environment Supervisor Approved

Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION	Project Number: 100153025
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Integral Elements

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Category of Action:

B1.3: Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment.

Maintenance includes repair of road embankments, erosion control and soil stabilization measures such as reseeded and re-vegetation.

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
 - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
 - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(I)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no significant adverse environmental effects associated with this action.



**Western Area Power Administration,
SIERRA NEVADA REGION
NEPA Attachment Sheet**

**Project
Number:
100153025**

PROJECT TITLE:

Hazard Tree Removal: RDM-CW and KE-ODA Transmission Lines, Shasta County, CA

REVIEW ACTION AND RESULTS

Western proposes to remove 2 trees along the RDM-CW and KE-ODA 230-kV lines on City of Redding and private land. The identified hazard trees are located outside of the ROW. All are close enough to potentially hit the transmission line or associated structures.

Adjacent lines and access roads have been surveyed for sensitive cultural and/or biological resources. Habitat was reviewed for potential to harbor special-status species. WAPA determined that no sensitive species are anticipated in the areas, but nesting bird surveys would be performed prior to work to be consistent with the North Area EA for O&M activities. Cultural resources may be present in the general vicinity but are not likely to be disturbed by tree work. Conservation measures are prescribed for biological and cultural features below.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Trees lie in an annual grassland (RDM-CW) and a foothill pine chaparral (KE-ODA) habitat. Minimization measures are described for each of the resources.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The affected environment is not expected to hold special-status species. Nesting birds may be of concern, so pre-work surveys are required.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES:

- **MBTA:**

If planned activities occur between January 1 and September 15, nesting bird surveys will be required prior to project activities. If a nest is detected, an appropriate buffer will be marked in which all O&M activities and herbicide applications will be prohibited from January 1 and September 15 or until nestlings have fledged. A standard nest buffer of 50 feet will be used, unless otherwise indicated by the surveying biologist. A standard buffer of 250 feet will be used for raptor nests, unless otherwise indicated by the surveying

biologist. Nesting surveys can be conducted up to 3 weeks prior to Project activities.
Please notify WAPA a minimum of 2 weeks in advance to schedule nesting surveys.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS

- **CULTURAL INFORMATION: Hand clearing/removal only. No skidding. Lop and scatter permitted. Contractor is to limit area of work to immediate vicinity of danger tree only.**
 - This action is covered by Western's Programmatic Agreement, "Programmatic Agreement among the Western Area Power Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Concerning Emergency and Routine Maintenance Activities at Western Facilities in California," revised 3/1/ 2010.
 - Include in Western's annual report
 - Minimization Measures Required