

memorandum

DATE: August 1, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR/Pasco

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Heredia
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Midway No. 1 Tower 75/4 Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 2410

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

Location: The work associated with this project will take place in the areas shown in the table below:

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
North Bonneville-Midway #1	75/4	6N	17E	14, 23	Klickitat, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace tower 75/4 on the North Bonneville-Midway No. 1 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of this critical line. Tower 75/4 is located on the Yakama Indian Reservation, near Shenando Creek. Tower 75/4 is failing because the footings are in an active landslide that started moving when Highway 97 was relocated. The plan is to replace the steel tower with two wood H-Frame structures. As part of the replacement project, the access will need to be re-established and improved in the area. BPA is proposing to complete this work between August 13 and September 28, 2012.

The work would proceed as follows:

1. Re-establish adequate access on current roadbeds. This includes replacing a washed out culvert on the current access road and adding an extension to an existing culvert.
2. Construct two 230-kV wood pole H-frame structures, one MA1-75 feet back-on-line and one MA1-70 feet ahead-on-line from existing tower 75/4 within the existing right-of-way.
3. Connect the existing three phase conductors to the new structures and cut and splice the conductor to appropriate length.
4. Remove the old steel tower and cut off the old footings at ground level.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Shawn L. Barndt

Environmental Scientist Tri-Cities District

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 1, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY12 North Bonneville-Midway 75/4 Tower Replacement Project

Work Order #: 00304724

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources On July 30, 2012, the Yakama Nation THPO concurred with BPA's determination that no archaeological resources would be affected. However, due to the project being located on the Yakama Indian Reservation, all project activities will be observed by cultural monitors from the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Populations of gray wolf, bull trout, Ute ladies'-tresses and northern spotted owl occur far outside of the project areas. Further, the project areas do not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project areas are not adjacent to any recorded anadromous fish usage, and BMPs would be installed such that project activities would not affect the water quality of surface waters. For the above reasons, it was determined that this project would have "No Effect" on these listed species, critical habitat and EFH.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) A Yakama Nation Industrial Hydraulic Permit is required for the culvert work. The culvert replacement and extension work will take place in August when the streams have dried up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Shawn L. Barndt

Date: July 31, 2012