

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 12, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Brasada-Harney No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 2187

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

Location: Brasada-Harney No. 1 transmission line in Deschutes and Harney counties, Oregon, at the following locations:

Mile	Structure	Landowner	Township	Range	Section
23	8	Private	19	16	22
26	6	BLM	19	17	30
28	1	BLM	19	17	32
29	2	Private	19	17	4
29	5	Private	19	17	4
29	7	BLM	19	17	4
30	8	Private	19	17	10
31	5	BLM	19	17	11
46	5	DSL	21	19	13
49	8	BLM	21	20	21
59	1	BLM	22	21	11
59	8	BLM	22	21	12
60	1	BLM	22	21	12
62	2	BLM	22	22	17
62	6	BLM	22	22	20
65	2	BLM	22	22	23
66	4	BLM	22	22	25
79	2	BLM	23	24	24
79	4	BLM	23	24	24
79	6	BLM	23	24	24
80	1	BLM	23	24	25
80	3	BLM	23	24	25
80	4	BLM	23	25	30

Mile	Structure	Landowner	Township	Range	Section
81	2	BLM	23	25	19
81	3	BLM	23	25	20
81	5	BLM	23	25	20
84	3	Private	23	25	23
85	4	BLM	23	25	24
93	3	BLM	23	27	19
93	7	BLM	23	27	20
94	3	BLM	23	27	20
95	2	BLM	23	27	21
95	4	BLM	23	27	21
103	7	BLM	23	28	26
103	8	BLM	23	28	25
103	9	BLM	23	28	25
104	1	BLM	23	28	25
104	5	BLM	23	28	25
104	6	BLM	23	28	25
105	5	BLM	23	29	30
105	6	BLM	23	29	30
106	2	BLM	23	29	29
106	7	BLM	23	29	28
107	2	BLM	23	29	28
107	5	BLM	23	29	33
107	7	BLM	23	29	34
109	1	BLM	23	29	35
110	5	BLM	23	29	36
111	1	BLM	24	30	6
111	2	BLM	24	30	6
111	3	BLM	24	30	6
111	4	BLM	24	30	6
112	2	Private	24	30	5
113	2	Private	24	30	4
113	6	Private	24	30	4
113	7	Private	24	30	4

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace, in-kind, several deteriorating wood pole structures along its Brasada-Harney No. 1, 230-kilovolt transmission line located in Deschutes and Harney counties, Oregon. There are a total of 56 pole structures over 90 miles, located along a BPA right-of-way easement on a mixture of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private land. The work will include creating a 50 foot x 50 foot earthen landing around each structure to allow equipment staging for pole removal and

replacement. The new poles will be installed approximately five feet ahead, or back on line, from the existing poles. This will allow for the new pole holes to be drilled before the line outage when the existing pole will be removed and the new pole installed. No new access road improvements will be needed for any of the structure locations. The project is proposed to begin in spring 2013. The project duration will be approximately one month.

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.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff

Environmental Engineer

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 12, 2013

Attachment:

Provisions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

- No new access roads will be constructed for this project.
- No herbicides will be used for this project.
- Only cleaned equipment will be used to prevent the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species.
- A wash station will be installed just to the south of structure 97/3. To prevent the spread of Medusa head that has been identified in the area, vehicles will be washed at this location prior to and after accessing structures 93/3, 93/7, 94/3, 95/2 and 95/4.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Brasada-Harney No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 297903

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.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Finding of No Effect to cultural resources was sent to SHPO and tribes on Jan 7, 2013. No response was received from SHPO or the tribes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit is known to be within the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or other water resources at any of the project locations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Bureau of Land Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Washing of equipment before leaving right-of way will used to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Brasada-Harney No. 1 Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: April 5, 2013

Aaron Shurtliff, KEPR-4