

memorandum

DATE: June 7, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Scott Williams
Line Foreman III – TFDF-The Dalles

Proposed Action: Structure replacement and access road maintenance on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Underwood Tap transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 2683

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Location: Skamania County, Washington

Line Corridor	Structures	TRS	County, State
Underwood Tap 115-kV Line	26/12, 26/13 and 26/14	3N, 10E, Section 15	Skamania, Washington

Proposed by: BPA

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.) along the Underwood Tap, 115-kilovolt transmission line located in Skamania County, Washington. Wood poles will be replaced at structures 26/12, 26/13 and 26/14. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes where possible 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. The project is proposed to begin in the summer of 2013. The project duration will be approximately one month.

The project will also include access road maintenance and landing improvement to include the addition of crushed rock within the existing road prism to provide a stable base for equipment. The replacement of a small culvert in a non-fish bearing stream will also be conducted within the project area. Regulatory permits for the installation of the culvert have been obtained by BPA. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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:

Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 7, 2013

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Underwood Tap 115-kV Transmission Line Structure Replacement

Work Order #: 319560

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work to be performed within existing previously disturbed construction foot print. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The project area is outside of the National Scenic Area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No health and safety issues are present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmlands are present in the project area. Those farmlands that are present will be available for use based on project design. BPA has worked with the landowner to maintain use of the land.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Clean Water Act 404 Nationwide permit obtained by BPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Frederick J. Walasavage
 Frederick J. Walasavage
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 30, 2013