

memorandum

DATE: May 9, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacey Hensley
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: 2014 North Bend District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2883

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

Location: Coos, Curry, Lane, and Douglas counties, Oregon. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (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 subject transmission lines. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes 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 work area will not extend beyond the original construction footprint.

Routine access road maintenance will be necessary in several locations to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage storm water run-off. Activities will include light blading of existing road surface and placement of road rock within the existing established road prism. Cross drains, ditches, and culverts will be inspected and cleaned if necessary. Rock will be added around several structures to improve access and crew safety.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. 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:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: */s/ Stacy Mason*

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: *May 9, 2014*

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Fairview-Bandon #1	14/5, 14/9	28S	12W	1	Coos, OR	Pasture
Rogue-Gold Beach #2	4/4	36S	14W	19	Curry, OR	Pasture
Reedsport-Fairview #1	21/4	25S	12W	8	Coos, OR	Commercial forestry
	23/3, 23/4	25S	12W	17	Coos, OR	Commercial forestry
	33/4	27S	12W	6	Coos, OR	Commercial forestry
Tahkenitch-Gardiner #1	2/2	12S	12W	15	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
Wendson-Tahkenitch #1	4/3	18S	11W	34	Lane, OR	USFS
	19/4	21S	12W	11	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
Cougar-Thurston #1	12/3	17S	3W	2	Lane, OR	Commercial forestry

ROW Corridor	Corridor Location	Description of Maintenance	Land Use
Rogue-Gold Beach #2	4/4	Add rock to landing area around pole	pasture
Reedsport-Fairview #1	20-23 mile	Resurface 7500' of existing access road, add rock to landings	Commercial forestry
Wendson-Tahkenitch	2-4 mile, 19/4	Resurface 6200' of existing access road, add rock to landings	Commercial forestry
Cougar-Thurston #1	12/3	Resurface 1700' of existing access road, add rock to landings	Commercial forestry

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2014 North Bend District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 342928 (Reedsport-Fairview #1), 342930 (Rogue-Gold Beach #2), 342932 (Tahkenitch-Gardiner #1), 342935 (Wendson-Tahkentich #1), 343035 (Cougar-Thurston #1)

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scope consists of routine maintenance existing road surfaces and landing improvements as well as all new poles being placed in existing holes within the original construction footprint. Blading and rocking will only occur within the existing established road prism. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. ▪ 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 will not commence until the SHPO has cleared the area. ▪ A monitor, preferably an archaeologist, should be on site during construction. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Structure 4/3 on Wendson-Tahkenitch #1 is located adjacent to designated critical habitat for the Northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. Work in this area is scheduled for October, outside of determined breeding seasons for both species. In-kind replacement of one structure and associated hardware as well as rock additions around the structure and along the access road will occur in this location. Due to the schedule, no timing restrictions will be in effect.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements.		
4. Areas of special designation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City of Eugene Parks – signage and monitors will be used to maintain public safety. ▪ Howard Buford Recreation Area (county park) – work scheduled to avoid times of high public use. Signs and monitors will be utilized if necessary. 		
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pasture lands will be accessed after hay season in the driest part of the year (September)		
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: April 30, 2014

Ben Tilley, KEP-ALVEY