

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 7, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Todd Wehner
Civil Design/Access Roads – TELF-TPP-3James Semrau
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement, equipment landing construction, and access road improvements along various transmission lines in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Grand Coulee District.

PP&A Project No.: 2152 (Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1), 2151 (Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2), 2121 (Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1) and 1776 (Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2)

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

Location: Douglas and Okanogan counties, Washington. Refer to table below for project locations:

Line Name	Structure	Township	Range	Section	County
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1	20/1	29N	27E	24	Douglas
	24/5	29N	27E	19	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2	19/2	29N	28E	19	Douglas
	19/8	29N	27E	24	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	11/6	29N	29E	20	Douglas
	12/2	29N	29E	19	Douglas
	32/5, 32/6, 33/1, 33/2 and Access roads	29N	25E	25	Douglas
	2/8	29N	30E	34	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	24/7	31N	28E	18	Okanogan
	25/6	31N,	27E,	13	Okanogan
	30/5	32N	27E	27	Okanogan
	2/3, 3/5	29N	30E	34	Douglas
	3/10	29N	30E	28	Douglas
	Access roads	29N	29E	02, 03, 04	Douglas
	Access roads	30N	29E	33, 29, 20, 19, 18	Douglas

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 transmission lines listed above. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger or backhoe will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

Landing construction, if needed, will be limited to an area not to exceed 100-feet-wide by 200-feet-long at each structure proposed for replacement.

Access road maintenance/reconstruction will only take place from mile 32 to mile 33 of the Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1 and from mile 10 to mile 16 of the Grand Coulee-Okanogan transmission lines. Access road maintenance will be limited to mowing, blading, compacting, shaping and surfacing existing access road segments. Reconstruction of existing water bars, fords, culverts and drainage ditches may also occur. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism.

Erosion control measures for this project will include reseeded with a native seed mix to stabilize any disturbed vegetative areas and utilizing erosion control devices (i.e. silt fencing, straw bales, etc) to minimize sedimentation of nearby water resources during project activities.

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

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:

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

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

Proposed Project: 2013 Grand Coulee District Wood Pole Replacement Projects and the Grand Coulee-Foster Creek and Grand Coulee-Okanogan Access Road Improvements

Work Order #: 319112, 319113, 319081, 319082

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 106 consultation completed. SHPO and tribes concurred with BPA's No Historic Determination. ▪ Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. No new road construction is planned or will be performed without further environmental review. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T&E species or critical/essential habitat do not occur within ½ mile of the project area.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized during project activities therefore planned work will have a "No Effect" on water quality or habitat.		
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 (Culverts and Fords)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In stream work shall be performed only during low flow or no flow conditions. ▪ Standard water protection BMP's and erosion control devices shall be utilized for sediment control. ▪ Approaches to crossings should be rocked at least to the top of the gradient break. ▪ Fords should be armored to prevent vehicle traffic from mobilizing sediment in flow conditions. 		

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales _____

Date: June 5, 2013 _____

Michael A. Rosales, KEPR-Bell-1