DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
(8-89)

**United States Government** **Department of Energy**

**Bonneville Power Administration**

# memorandum

**DATE:** June 11, 2013

**REPLY TO ATTN OF:** KEC-4

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Clearance Memorandum

**TO:** Rick Teiper
Project Manager – TERM-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Pearl-Keeler Right-of-Way (ROW) Marking Project

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

**Location:** Washington County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to survey and mark the Pearl-Keeler No. 1 transmission line ROW boundary in Washington County, Oregon. The installation of markers to demarcate BPA's ROW would prevent encroachment from homeowners and developers, ensure the safety of nearby residents, and allow for the continued safe maintenance and operation of BPA's transmission lines.

The proposed Project would install yellow carsonite markers and monuments along an approximately 14-mile-long portion of the Pearl-Keeler ROW. Prior to marker installation, survey crews would accurately determine the location of the ROW centerline and monument the centerline with 3.25-inch- diameter aluminum caps set flush with the ground on 0.62-inch-diameter by 18-inch-long rebar. These monuments would be set at line-of-sight intervals, generally every 250 to 600 feet, depending on terrain. The 2- to 3-inch-wide, 1-inch-thick carsonite markers would then be installed at line-of-sight intervals similar to the monuments. The markers would be driven by hand approximately 1 to 1.5 feet into the ground using a metal sleeve and a pounder. Upon installation, the markers would stand between 4 and 5 feet in height. The proposed Project would permanently disturb an area approximately 2 to 3 inches wide by 1 inch long to accommodate each marker and 3.25-inch-diameter circles at the monument locations. No access road improvements are proposed.

**Findings:**
The northern portion of the Project area generally contains residential subdivisions and the southern portion generally contains open agricultural fields. The ROW also occasionally crosses fragmented forest stands that are surrounded by development or agricultural land uses. The ROW is currently managed for low-growing vegetation. If needed, vegetation disturbance within the ROW near each monument and marker could include trimming of shrubs and removal of some branches, which is consistent with BPA's existing ROW vegetation management practices.

Multiple perennial and intermittent waterbodies, including the Tualatin River, and wetland complexes occur throughout the Project area. All monuments and markers would be installed at least 25 feet from any waterbody. Therefore, any minor erosion from ground disturbance would not enter adjacent waterbodies. Further, there would be no effect on wetlands within the ROW.

The following federally-listed threatened or endangered species are listed as potentially occurring in Washington County: Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*), Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii*), Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fender*), and Upper Willamette Run (UWR) winter steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The proposed Project would have no effect on these species or their critical habitat because suitable habitat does not exist within the Project area, or Project activities would not disturb individuals that may be present.

On May 3, 2013, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. No response from the Oregon SHPO, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, or the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz was received during the consultation period.

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 <u>not</u> (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/ Katey Grange*
Katey Grange
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce* Date: *June 11, 2013*
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
Categorical Exclusion Checklist

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Pearl-Keeler ROW Marking

**Work Order #:** 00333376

**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 | | x |
| In the event any archaeological or historical material is encountered during Project activities, the following actions should be taken:<br>• Stop work in the vicinity and notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA Project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies as soon as possible.<br>• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.<br>• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access. | | |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) | x | |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands | | x |
| No vegetation clearing or marker/monument installation within 25 feet of any waterbody. | | |
| 4. Areas of special designation | x | |
| 5. Health & safety | x | |
| 6. Prime or unique farmlands | x | |
| 7. Special sources of water | x | |
| 8. Other (describe) | x | |

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species
Section 106 consultation letters

Signed: */s/ Katey Grange* Date: *June 11, 2013*