

memorandum

DATE: April 3, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ryan Brady
Lineman Foreman III – TFOK-CHEHALIS

Proposed Action: Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 Line Impairment Structure Replacements

PP&A Project No.: 2,914

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

Location: Lewis County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Chehalis District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to address clearance impairments at two locations on the 230-kilovolt Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 transmission line. The project involves replacing the wood poles of two existing H-frame wood pole structures, 13/8 and 20/5, in-kind at the same locations but with taller poles. Increasing the height of these structures and conductor by approximately 10 feet in the existing, cleared right-of-way (ROW) will remediate line clearance issues at these locations. Both structures are located on private property in the existing cleared ROW easement on flat to moderate slopes. To safely access the line structures and perform the work, the work may require routine road maintenance, such as adding rock on the existing access road bed. Where no road exists in the corridor, access for this project will be temporary only, and environmental matting may be used in wet areas, if needed. An impairment is a span or area where the distance from the conductor to the ground surface is inadequate, per National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards.

The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line to minimize risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region. The proposed work is scheduled during an outage in May 2014. All work will be in accordance with the NESC 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.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value and no project sites are within a governmentally designated scenic area.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 3, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 Impairment Structure Replacements

Work Order #: TBD

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed action will occur within existing structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Project access will use existing access roads and landings. Wood poles will be installed reusing the same holes, after the existing poles are removed. New wood poles will be in-kind, consistent with existing poles and the rest of the line. If road maintenance is required, rock will be placed on top of fabric.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structure 13/8 site is over 1-mile from a single historic MM detection to the north (detection in WAT13NR1ESEC29). Above canopy detection from 1992, project area is not near known or suitable nesting habitat, project activities are similar to adjacent rural agricultural activities, will not impact any potential habitat, and will take place during the day. No effect.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Structure 20/5 is located in a grassy, grazing/agricultural field in a wetland. All Project impacts within the proximity of the wetland shall be temporary, including the final 150-feet of the approach to access the ROW and structure. There was no standing water during a site visit on 3/25/14. If the site or access route is too wet for rubber-tired vehicles to access at time of construction, environmental mats shall be installed prior to work to ensure the extent and duration of the impacts are minimized, while allowing the BPA crew to safely perform the work. Erosion and sediment controls must be implemented, if needed, to prevent any construction-related erosion or sediment run-off.		
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 – Visual Impacts - existing facilities, in-kind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: March 31, 2014

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4