

memorandum

DATE: September 16, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad Caldwell
Customer Service Engineer – TPC-Olympia

Proposed Action: Replace aging wood poles on Trans Alta's Centralia Tap to Chehalis-Covington No. 1 230-kV transmission line.

Budget Information: As per agreement with Trans Alta

PP&A Project No.: N/A

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities... for...rights-of-way, infrastructures (e.g.. roads)... routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain and preserve infrastructures...in a condition suitable for the facility to be used for its designated purpose.

Location: The project is located on Trans Alta's Centralia Tap to Chehalis-Covington No. 1 transmission line corridor in Lewis County, Washington. Affected structures include 1/2, 1/4, 1/5 B, 2/2, 3/6, and 3/7.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA will perform routine maintenance and replacement of aging wood pole transmission line support structures, including all hardware and guy support structures on the Centralia Tap to Chehalis-Covington No. 1 230-kV transmission line. The transmission line is owned and operated by Trans Alta and BPA maintains the line at Trans Alta's expense. Trans Alta is contracting with BPA to complete the maintenance work.

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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992), as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). 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, 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.

BPA has determined the project will have “No Effect” on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or other sensitive areas are known to exist within the project area. Based on this, the proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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 un-permitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

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:

Greg Tippetts

Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 16, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Trans Alta Pole Replacement Project 2011

Work Order #: N/A PP&A Project No.: N/A

Prepared by: Greg Tippetts Routing: KEPR Date: 9/8/11

This project has been found to **not** adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file: ESA Effects Determination