

memorandum

DATE: June 5, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Semrau
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2326

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

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: The project is located in Washington and Yamhill counties, Oregon, in BPA's Salem District. Structure locations are as follows:

Structure	Legal Description	County, State
2\5	1S, 3W, Sec. 6	Washington, OR
3\3	1S, 3W, Sec. 7	Washington, OR
3\6, 4\3	1S, 4W, Sec. 12	Washington, OR
4\8, 4\9, 5\3	1S, 4W, Sec. 14	Washington, OR
6\2, 6\5	1S, 4W, Sec. 23	Washington, OR
7\4, 7\6	1S, 4W, Sec. 26	Washington, OR
7\11, 8\2, 8\4	1S, 4W, Sec. 35	Washington, OR
8\9, 9\1, 9\6	2S, 4W, Sec. 2	Yamhill, OR
9\7, 10\1, 10\5	2S, 4W, Sec. 11	Yamhill, OR
11\7, 11\8, 12\1	2S, 4W, Sec. 22	Yamhill, OR
13\8	2S, 4W, Sec. 26	Yamhill, OR
15\1, 15\2, 15\4, 15\8	3S, 4W, Sec. 2	Yamhill, OR
16\4, 16\6	3S, 4W, Sec. 11	Yamhill, OR

Current land uses within the project area are primarily agricultural crops, vineyards, and open pasturelands. No public or tribal lands are involved.

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 Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 transmission line. 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. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

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.

No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or other sensitive areas are known to exist within the proposed project sites. 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.

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/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 5, 2012

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2012 Forest Grove-McMinnville Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 2326

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities. Minor rock placements at selected sites on the Forest Grove-McMinnville #1 will occur to facilitate access to uneven surfaces. ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. ▪ 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. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.		
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. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Work will be performed primarily during the dry season and after crops have been harvested. Coordination will occur with property owners for time-sensitive crops.		
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: May 24, 2012