

# memorandum

DATE: September 14, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darin Bowman  
Civil Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Bonneville-Hood River No. 1 Danger Pole Replacement and Access Road Upgrades

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

**Location:** Hood River County, OR

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Upgrade access roads and landings from Structures 6/1 through 7/4 and replace danger poles on the Bonneville-Hood River No. 1 115-kV transmission line.

## **Background**

This project entails improving the existing access along the Bonneville-Hood River No. 1 transmission line; maintaining existing structure landings; and replacing three danger poles and associated hardware. The project details are outlined below.

## **Road Maintenance**

Road maintenance is needed to ensure the roads can handle the current project as well as any future maintenance activities. Unless otherwise noted below, road maintenance will require that the existing roads be leveled and re-rocked so they are drivable. Approximately 225 linear feet of the road north of Structure 6/7 will need to be repaired. Ruts will be removed. The road will be out sloped. And, two water bars will be installed.

## **Landing Structures**

The existing equipment landings at Structures 6/6, 7/3, and 7/4 will be re-leveled and re-rocked so construction and maintenance equipment can operate safely at these structures.

### **Structure 6/6**

The existing 8-foot-wide x 65-foot-long landing at Structure 6/6 will need to be leveled by excavating approximately 10 cubic yards of material to level the pad near the Structure. The landing size will not change.

### **Structure 7/3**

The 18-foot-wide x 34-foot-long landing located ahead-on-line of Structure 7/3 may require approximately 1-2 feet to be removed to level the pad. The excavated materials will be used as fill on the south side of the landing. The landing size will not change.

**Structure 7/4**

The existing 25-foot-wide x 49-foot-long landing located at Structure 7/4 is designated to be used as a material storage area. It will be expanded to approximately 35-foot-wide x 49-foot-long by filling and leveling the NW corner with cut bank slide excavation material and small boulders.

**Danger Pole Replacement**

Three danger poles will be replaced with like-kind poles at mile/Structures 6/6, 6/10, and 7/2. The new poles will be placed in the same hole locations as the old poles.

All sites are located within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) and the project underwent NSA review for consistency with the NSA Act. BPA was provided with a letter of consistency for this project. In addition, the project activities are located in an area described under the Forest Service-BPA MOU/MOA and no further Forest Service authorization is required. Section 106 consultation has been completed with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

**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/ Kevin George

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 14, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Bonneville-Hood River Danger Pole Replacement and AR Upgrades

**Work Order #:** 300222

**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 A letter of from the Cowlitz Tribe with Inadvertent Discovery language is attached.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No species or habitat will be impacted by this project. T & E fish species occur within the project area, but not work will occur in water and all necessary BMP's will be in place to protect the streams. No trees are to be cleared with this action.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands will be impacted by this project. Any work occurring in or around floodplains and wetlands will implement necessary BMP's to protect these resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Three project sites occur within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA). A letter of consistency with the NSA is attached.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmland impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Coordinate final road design and BMPs with State for areas on near Oxbow Fish Hatchery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Kevin George

Date September 12, 2012