

# memorandum

DATE: May 17, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Corinn Castro  
Project Manager – TELM-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Spacer-damper replacements on the Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 500-kV transmission line

**Budget Information:** Work Order # 00255064

**PP&A Project No.:** 1514

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

B1.3, Routine maintenance activities for structures, rights-of-way, and infrastructures, (such as roads), that are required to maintain infrastructures in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

**Location:** The project is in King and Snohomish counties, Washington in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) North Region, Covington and Snohomish districts. Townships, ranges and sections are listed in the following table:

County, State	Township	Range	Section
King, Washington	23N	7E	1, 2, 11
	24N	7E	1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36
	25N	7E	2, 11, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36
	26N	7E	4, 9, 16, 21, 27, 28, 34, 35
Snohomish, Washington	27N	7E	3, 10, 15, 21, 22, 28, 33
	28N	7E	22, 27, 34

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of Proposed Action:** In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA needs to replace old, worn spacer-dampers on approximately 30 miles of the Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 500-kV transmission line. Manned aerial carts that ride on transmission line conductors will be used to change out the

spacer-dampers. A helicopter will place carts on the transmission line prior to line crews accessing them to perform work. New spacer-dampers will be flown to the carts and delivered by helicopter. Once the old spacer-dampers are changed, they will be picked up by helicopter and transported to a pickup area before being sent to a recycling center. The majority of the work will be performed above ground with minimal support from vehicles and crews on the ground. All vehicles will remain on existing access roads. The work will provide system reliability. All work will be in accordance with 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 (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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.

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; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

With the actions 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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning

Biological Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 17, 2010

Attachments:

Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species

Environmental Checklist

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 500-kV Transmission Line Spacer-Damper Replacement Project

Work Order #: 00255064 PP&A Project No.: PP&A-1514

Prepared by: Chad Browning Routing: KEPR-4 Date: 5/17/10

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

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources All work above ground with no ground disturbance – No cultural impacts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 (Migratory Birds)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ospreys may occur within the vicinity of the ROW. Should an occupied nest be found within the project area, helicopters will fly as to avoid disturbing active nests.