

# memorandum

DATE: October 4, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

**Proposed Action:** Replace spacer dampers along the Slatt-John Day No. 1 500-kV transmission line

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00255064

**PP&A Project No.:** PP&A 1681

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3, Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment...routine maintenance activities, corrective....are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

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

**Location:** BPA's proposed Slatt-John Day No. 1 Transmission Line Spacer Replacement Project is located in Sherman and Gilliam Counties, Oregon, in BPA's Tri-Cities and The Dallas Operation and Maintenance Districts. Townships, Ranges, and Sections crossed by the proposed project are listed below.

Townships, Ranges, and Sections for the  
Slatt-John Day No. 1 Spacer Replacement Project

Township		Range		Sections
2	N	17	E	5-7
2	N	18	E	1-5
2	N	18	E	12
2	N	19	E	1-10
2	N	20	E	1-6
2	N	21	E	3-6
3	N	17	E	32-36
3	N	18	E	31, 32, 34, 35

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA needs to replace old and worn conductor spacers along 30.3 miles of the Slatt-John Day No. 1 500-kV transmission line. Spacer replacement is a routine maintenance activity conducted from manned aerial carts placed on the transmission line conductor either by helicopter or line truck. Crews then access the carts to perform the

work. Once changed out, old spacers would be transported to a pickup area before being sent to a recycling center. Minimal ground support would be needed and all surface vehicles would be restricted to existing access roads. The proposed project is necessary to maintain reliability along BPA's transmission system. All work would 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 (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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 4, 2010

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Slatt-John Day No. 1 500 kV Transmission Line Spacer-Dampers Replacement Project

**Work Order #:** 00255064      **PP&A Project No.:** PP&A-1681

**Prepared by:** Laura Roberts      **Routing:** KEP-4      **Date:** 9/29/10

**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	<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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>