

# memorandum

DATE: March 2, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mark Kjelland  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-2

**Proposed Action:** Insulator replacement in agricultural lands along the Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3/Grand Coulee-Westside No. 1 double circuit 230-kV transmission line

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00255064

**PP&A Project No.:** PP&A 1909

**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 proposes to replace worn insulators on sections of the Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3/Grand Coulee-Westside No. 1 double circuit 230-kV transmission line. This portion of the transmission line is located in Lincoln County, Washington, in BPA's Spokane Operations and Maintenance District. Townships, Ranges, and Sections crossed by the proposed project are listed below.

TOWNSHIP		RANGE		SECTION
27	N	32	E	5, 6
28	N	30	E	2, 11, 13, 14, 24
28	N	31	E	19, 27-30, 34-36
28	N	32	E	31

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA proposes to replace worn insulators in agricultural lands along the Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3/Grand Coulee-Westside No. 1 double circuit 230-kV transmission line (approximately 13 miles). To accommodate spring planting and minimize disturbance to crops, work would begin in early March 2011. The replacement of insulators is a minimally impactful activity. Work would be conducted on energized lines using live-line and bare-hand techniques. Insulators, which are located at the attachment points between the conductor and the transmission line towers, would be accessed using a heavily insulated line truck. The specialized truck would also be used to transport new and old insulators to and from the towers. The majority of the work would be

conducted above ground. All vehicles would remain on existing access roads and no soil disturbing activities are anticipated. 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.

/s/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

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

Date: March 2, 2011

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Insulator replacement in agricultural lands along the Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3/Grand Coulee-Westside double circuit 230-kV transmission line

**Work Order #:** 00255064                      **PP&A Project No.:** PP&A-1909

**Prepared by:** Laura Roberts                      **Routing:** KEP-4                      **Date:** 2/28/11

**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) No ESA species occur within the project area	<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"/>