

memorandum

DATE: April 15, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Steve Scott
Line Foreman III – TFNF-Snohomish

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement at selected locations along the Murray-Custer #1 transmission line right-of-way (ROW).

PP&A Project No.: 1963

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.

Location: The proposed project is located in Snohomish and Skagit Counties, Washington, in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Snohomish District.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. crossarms, insulators, guy anchors) along the subject transmission lines. Pole 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 replacement. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations. Specific locations include BPA structure numbers:

Snohomish County – 4/1, 6/7, 7/1, 7/3.

Skagit County – 17/2.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be done in accordance with the National Electric 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.

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:
Chad Browning
Environmental Scientist

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

DATE: April 15, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Murray-Custer No. 1 Transmission Line Wood Pole Replacement

Work Order #: 00275528

PP&A Project No.: 1963

Prepared by: Chad Browning

Routing: KEPR-Covington

Date: 4/7/2011

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing construction is not planned. Crews will utilize existing holes for pole replacement. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. • 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"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMPs will be implemented to prevent sedimentation into waterways. • Work near occupied bald eagle nests will not take place closer than 660 feet. 		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>