

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 25, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Andy Crosby  
Line Foreman III – TFEP-North Bend

Todd Stringer  
Line Foreman I – TFEP-North Bend

**Proposed Action:** Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along the Wendson-Tahkenitch #1 and the Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1 transmission line rights-of-way.

**PP&A Project No:** 1960

**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 designated purpose.

**Location:** The project area is located in Lane and Coos counties, Oregon, in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) North Bend District. Project locations are listed below:

Project Location				
Township	Range	Section(s)	Line Name	Structures
18S	11W	28	Wendson-Tahkentich #1	2/5
21S	12W	34	Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1	4/22

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the subject transmission line at the locations listed above. 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 placement.

Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations. Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will 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 un-permitted 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 25, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** FY11 North Bend TLM District Wood Pole Replacement projects

**PP&A Project No.:** 1960 (Wendson-Tahkenitch #1, Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1)

**Prepared by:** Ben Tilley      **Routing:** KEP-Alvey      **Date:** 05/18/2011

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed for the project. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an on-site cultural monitor will have to be present during construction activities.</li> <li>▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Scolfield Creek, which contains Coho Salmon (Oregon Coast ESU) and critical habitat, is approximately 50 feet from structure 4/22 on the Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1 transmission line. No road or landing work is required in this location. Access is across a levee above the structure site. Work will take place from the levee, removing existing poles and placing new one in the existing hole. No other ground disturbance will occur at this location. Work will be performed during the in-water work period (7\15 to 9\15) to match low water levels.</p> <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the project area.</p>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Flood levee for Scolfield Creek owned and operated by the City of Reedsport. Access is only allowed during dry weather. Work is scheduled for late July. No special conditions if schedule is adhered to.</p>		
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

10. Other

**Supporting documentation is in the official project file:**

Environmental Requirements Memorandum

Effects Determination for T&E Species