

memorandum

DATE: July 7, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darrell Aaby
Line Foreman III – TFDF-Redmond

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacements at select locations along the Big Eddy-Redmond and Redmond-Pilot Butte transmission line rights-of-way

PP&A Project No.: 1968

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 Wasco and Deschutes counties, Oregon, in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Redmond Region.

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. Specific locations and work to be performed include:

Transmission Line	County	Structure Number	Action
Redmond - Pilot Butte	Deschutes	10/5	Landing construction to accommodate equipment. Replace poles, x-arms, and hardware.
Big-Eddy-Redmond	Wasco	44/5	Landing construction to equipment Replace poles, x-arms, and hardware
Big-Eddy-Redmond	Wasco	51/7	Remove structure (not to be replaced).
Big-Eddy-Redmond	Wasco	51/8	Relocate structure 120-feet to the north. Cut existing structure off at base and remove.
Big-Eddy-Redmond	Wasco	51/9	Structure will be raised using 80-ft wood poles at current location.

Pole replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes, if possible, 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.

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:
Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

Date: July 7, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Big Eddy-Redmond and Redmond-Pilot Butte wood pole replacements

Work Order #: 274728

PP&A Project No.: 1968

Prepared by: Fred Walasavage

Routing: KEP-Celilo

Date: 6/14/2011

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"> • A cultural monitor will be required to be on site for the work at 51/7 and 51/8. • 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No areas of special designation occur within the project locations. 		
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"/>

Supporting documentation is in the official project file.

- Effects Determination for T&E Species.