

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: July 25, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Replacement of all aging wood pole transmission line support structures along the Cardwell-Cowlitz No. 1, 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00279267

**PP&A Project No.:** 2021

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance activities... for...rights of way, infrastructures (e.g.. structures)... routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain and preserve infrastructures...in a condition suitable for the facility to be used for its designated purpose.

**Location:** The project area is located along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Cardwell-Cowlitz No. 1, 115-kV transmission line corridor. The project area is located in Cowlitz County, Washington. The project begins at Cardwell Substation near the town of Carrols and ends at Cowlitz Substation located in Longview, Washington.

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to replace all of the aging wood pole transmission line support structures along the Cardwell-Cowlitz No. 1, 115-kV transmission line. Due to the age of the wood poles, the work is necessary to improve the safety, operation, and reliability of the transmission line. All wooden pole structures, hardware, and support structures will be replaced in the original location.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992), as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). 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.

No cultural artifact or historic properties were identified during an intensive survey of the project area and literature review by a third party archaeological firm. Based on this, BPA has determined the project will have "No Effect" on cultural resources or historic properties as

protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or other sensitive areas are known to exist within the project area. Based on this, the proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

All proposed work will occur within the transmission line right-of-way. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, wetlands, etc. Several of the transmission line support structures are located within wetland habitat. To avoid significant impacts to the habitat, construction crews completing the work in these areas will utilize removable mats to access the structures with heavy equipment.

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.

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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Greg Tippetts

Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 25, 2011

Attachment

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Cardwell-Cowlitz No.1 Pole Replacement Project (Capital)

Work Order #: 00279267 PP&A Project No.: 2021

Prepared by: Greg Tippetts Routing: KEPR Date: 7/20/11

This project has been found to **not** adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey completed 7/8/2011. No resources found. In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several of the transmission line support structures are located within wetland habitat. To avoid significant impacts to the habitat, construction crews completing the work in these areas will utilize removable mats to access the structures with heavy equipment.</li> </ul>		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:  
ESA Effects Determination