

memorandum

DATE: July 21, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Colville-Republic No. 1 115-kV rebuild project

Budget Information: Work Order #00270698

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1786

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.

B4.6, Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including...changing insulators, and replacement of poles, ...conductors, ...and crossarms.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: The proposed Colville-Republic Rebuild Project is located in Stevens County, Washington, in BPA's Spokane Operations and Maintenance District. Township, Range, and Section crossed by the proposed project listed below.

Township		Range		Sections
35	N	38	E	1
35	N	39	E	3-6,10,11
36	N	37	E	13,14,24
36	N	38	E	19,28-30,33,34-36
36	N	39	E	31,32

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace deteriorating wood pole structures along approximately 13.5 miles of the Colville-Republic No. 1 115-kV transmission line (structures 1/1-14/5). BPA would replace wood pole structures in kind and at their currently existing locations. In addition to pole replacement, BPA would replace structure crossarms, insulators, dampers and conductor. For crews to access pole structures, existing access roads within the Rights of Way (ROW) would be improved by clearing, grading, widening, and rocking. A few off ROW access roads would also be constructed. Areas around structures (landings) may also need to be graded to allow for safe positioning of equipment. Additionally, to meet new safety standards, approximately 200 Danger Trees adjacent to the ROW would be

removed. Equipment utilized for the proposed pole work would include a line truck with auger attachment and a small crane for lifting components. Heavy equipment used to perform access road work may include a mower, grader, roller, dump truck and bucket truck.

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: July 21, 2011

Attachment: Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Colville-Republic No. 1 115-kV Rebuild Project, Structures 1/1 to 14/5

Work Order #: 00270698

PP&A Project No.: PP&A-1786

Prepared by: Laura Roberts

Routing: KEP-4

Date: 7/20/2011

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 Mitigation for the Colville-Republic rebuild project's adverse effect to 45ST931, BPA conducting data recovery in areas where proposed project work is to be done. This would consist of excavation of eight 1 x 1 meter units around structure 13/9 and its associated access road and cultural monitoring during construction. See MIT for additional avoidance areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Working under Nation Wide 12 Fill Permit, for <1/10 th acre fill and temporary impacts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>