

memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Cleareance Memorandum

TO: Jim Semrau
Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Robert Keudell
Line Foreman III – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Todd Wehner
Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Robert Zellar
Line Foreman I – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement, equipment landing construction and access road construction/maintenance along the Grand Coulee-Okanogan #2 115-kV transmission line right-of-way (ROW).

PP&A Project No: 1776

Work Order No.: 275584

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

- B1.13 Construction, acquisition, and relocation of onsite pathways and short onsite access roads and railroads.
- 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 is located in Grant, Douglas and Okanogan counties, Washington, as listed below:

County	Township	Range	Section
Grant	28N	30E	02, 03, 01
Douglas	29N	30E	34, 33, 28, 29, 20, 19, 18, 07
	29N	29E	12, 11, 02, 03, 04
	30N	29E	33, 32, 29, 20, 19, 18, 07
Okanogan	30N	28E	12, 11, 10, 03, 04
	31N	28E	33, 32, 29, 20, 18
	31N	27E	13, 12, 11, 02
	32N	27E	35, 34, 27, 22, 21, 16, 17, 08, 07, 06
	33N	27E	31
	33N	26E	36, 25, 26, 24, 23, 14, 15, 10, 16, 09

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Maintenance activities will take place within the existing transmission line ROW easement and include upgrading existing access roads, relocating or constructing short spur roads to structures, constructing equipment landings and performing maintenance on structures identified in the table above and as described in detail below:

- Access road maintenance will involve clearing vegetation from existing road surfaces as well as grading and shaping existing road surfaces. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism and the existing road easement width of 20 feet.
- New road construction will only occur within the transmission line ROW and includes blading, grading and shaping the road and placing rock surfacing on the finished road surface. If new road construction is needed outside the transmission line ROW then additional archaeological investigations are required prior to conducting new road work outside the ROW.
- Landing maintenance and construction will be limited to establishing an area approximately 100 feet ahead on line and 100 feet back on line of each structure and from center line, approximately 50 feet on each side of the structures listed for replacement.
- Wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guys and guy anchors, etc.) will be replaced in-kind and will utilize the existing locations to minimize ground disturbance.

Erosion control measures for this project will include reseeding with a native seed mix to stabilize any disturbed vegetative areas and utilizing erosion control devices (e.g. silt fencing, straw bales, diversion dams, etc.) to minimize sedimentation of water resources during project activities.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line ROW, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

Analysis:

ESA-Listed Species and Habitat

In response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has prepared an Effects Determination for the proposed project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources

Section 106 consultation was initiated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on April 23, 2010 for miles 1 to 16 (located on non-tribal lands) and on August 12, 2010 with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for miles 17 to 41 (located on Tribal Lands). A cultural resource survey was conducted from March 22 through May 11, 2011. The report recommendations included archaeological monitoring during any maintenance activities from 7/6 to 7/7 and from 23/6 to 24/5 due to the high probability of cultural resources in these areas. The SHPO and the THPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected on August 1 and August 11, 2011, respectively.

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/ Joseph C. Sharpe, for:

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 22, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Grand Coulee-Okanogan #2 Wood Pole Replacement, Equipment Landing and Access Road Construction

PP&A Project No.: 1776

Prepared by: M. Rosales **Routing:** KEPR-Bell-1 **Date:** 08/17/2011

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"> ▪ On August 1, 2011, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected for miles 1 to 16 with the stipulation that an archaeologist be present during any maintenance activities performed between structures 7/6 to 7/7. ▪ On August 11, 2011, the THPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected for miles 17 to 41 with the stipulation that an archaeologist be present during any maintenance activities performed between structures 23/6 to 24/5. ▪ 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 SHPO and environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species; therefore, there will be "No Effect" to this listed species or critical/essential fish habitat.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water resources (streams, ponds, wetlands) are present within ½ mile of the project area. For this project, road repairs are not expected to affect these water resources but erosion control devices will be installed as needed to prevent sedimentation of these resources.		
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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):