

memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Cleareance Memorandum

TO: Todd Wehner
Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Robert Keudell
Line Foreman III – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Robert Zellar
Line Foreman I – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement, equipment landing construction and access road construction/maintenance along portions of the Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph #1 and #2 230-kV transmission line rights-of-way.

PP&A Project No: 1777

Work Order No.: 275582 and 275583

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 Douglas County, Washington. Specific locations are listed below:

Transmission Line	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph #1	7/6	29N	29E	25	Douglas
	8/4	29N	29e	26	
	14/4	29n	28e	23	
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph #2	10/7	29n	28e	28	
	11/4	29N	29E	20	
	25/4	29N	27E	19	
	25/8	29N	26E	25	
	25/8, 26/2, 26/3, 26/5	29N	26E	25	
26/6, 27/4	29N	26E	26		

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Maintenance activities will take place within the existing transmission line right-of-way 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 include blading, grading and shaping the road and placing rock surfacing on the finished road surface.
- 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, 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 right-of-way, 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 (EFH).

Cultural Resources

On September 3, 2010, Section 106 consultation was initiated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Results of the literature review and a cultural resource field survey conducted on May 16 to 19, 2011, indicated that the proposed action would have "No Effect" on historic properties. On June 28, 2011, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

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:

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-Chief Joseph #1 (7/6, 8/4, 14/4) and #2 (10/7, 11/4, 25/4, 25/8, 26/2, 26/3, 26/5, 26/6, 27/4)

PP&A Project No.: 1777

Prepared by: M. Rosales **Routing:** KEPR-Bell-1 **Date:** 08/11/2011

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"> ▪ On June 28, 2011, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected. ▪ 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"/>
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):