

# memorandum

DATE: May 1, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Heredia  
Supervisory Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Maupin-Tygh Valley #1 Pole Replacement Project

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00297894

**PP&A Project No.:** 2196

**Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3, Routine maintenance

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Location:** Project activities would take place in Wasco County, Oregon, T04S R14E S20

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace one aged and unsound wood pole structure (structure 3/2) on the BPA Maupin-Tygh Valley #1 transmission line. The new structure would be placed in the same location and have the same appearance as the old structure. Guy-wire anchors would be reused if possible; however, some of the anchors may need replacement. Some minor earthwork and the addition of crushed rock may be necessary at the pole replacement site to provide a stable base for the equipment. Some light access road work may be necessary between Oak Springs Road and the right-of-way.

**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 (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology,

governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements. 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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 1, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Maupin-Tygh Valley #1 Pole Replacement Project

**Work Order #:** 00297894

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On April 5, 2012, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected". BPA received no response from the tribes. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and an environmental representative should be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Known populations of bull trout and northern spotted owl occur far outside of the project area. Further, the project area does not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project area is not adjacent to any recorded anadromous fish usage, and project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. It was determined that this project would have "No Effect" to T&E Species, or their habitat(s).		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Oden W. Jahn

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