

memorandum

DATE: April 13, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Heredia
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Redmond-Pilot Butte No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 2189

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

B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Location: Redmond-Pilot Butte No. 1 transmission line in Deschutes County, Oregon at structures 4/7 and 11/6.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA is proposing to replace two deteriorating wood pole structures along its Redmond-Pilot Butte No. 1 230-kV transmission line located in Deschutes County, Oregon. The two structures to be replaced are 4/7 and 11/6. The work will include creating a 50' x 50' earthen landing around each structure to allow for equipment staging. The new poles will be installed approximately 5' feet away from the existing poles. No new access road improvements will be needed for any of the structure locations. The project is proposed to begin in May 2012, based on the availability of a line outage. The project duration will be approximately two weeks.

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.

Based on the provisions 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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 13, 2012

Attachments:

Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Provisions

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

- No new access roads will be constructed for this project.
- Existing access roads will not be improved by any means including blading, grading, excavation, or filling.
- No herbicides will be used for this project.
- Applicable fire season restrictions will be followed.
- Only cleaned equipment will be used to prevent the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Redmond-Pilot Butte No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 297908

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.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No 30-day response received from SHPO as of 4/9/12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit is known to be within the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Redmond-Pilot Butte Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: April 10, 2012