

# memorandum

DATE: March 21, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

**Proposed Action:** La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

**PP&A Project No.:** 2236

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6, Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Location:** La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 230-kV transmission line in Klamath County, Oregon, at the following structure locations: 11/5, 16/1, 16/4, 17/3, 17/8, 18/2, 18/3, 20/4, 22/2, 22/5, 28/1, 42/3, 43/6, 44/4, and 45/1.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to replace 15 deteriorating wood pole structures along its La Pine-Chiloquin 230-kV transmission line located in Klamath County, Oregon. The 15 structures are located along a 34-mile section of line between structures 11/5 and 45/1. The work will include removing the existing wood pole structures and replacing them with in-kind wood poles using the same holes. Since the new poles will be installed in the existing holes, no new excavation will be required. No new access road improvements will be constructed for any of the structure locations. The project is proposed to begin spring 2012, depending on availability of scheduling a line outage. The project duration will be approximately three months.

**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 Office

Date: March 21, 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: La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 300449

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 The project will not require any new ground disturbance. Wood poles to be replaced will be in-kind.	<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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: Aaron Shurtliff

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