

memorandum

DATE: June 28, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Frank Weintraub
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program; Third and Fourth Quarter Projects

Budget Information: Work Order #00255064

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1899

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

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: Various transmission lines located within BPA's Service Area. See Table 1 for locations of transmission lines.

Description of the Proposed Action: In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA proposes to replace worn spacers and insulators along various transmission lines throughout BPA's service area. Spacer and insulator replacement work would be conducted on energized lines using live-line and bare-hand techniques, as well as by standard techniques requiring an electrical outage. Spacer replacement is a routine maintenance activity conducted from manned aerial carts placed on the transmission line conductor either by helicopter or line truck. Crews then access the carts to perform the work. Once changed out, old spacers are then transported to a pickup area before being sent to a recycling center. Insulators are located at the attachment points between the conductor and the transmission line towers. Using a specialized heavily insulated line truck, a standard line truck or helicopter; linemen would access transmission towers and change out insulators. Spacer and insulator replacement would require minimal ground support and all surface vehicles would be restricted to existing access roads. No ground disturbance or work in streams is required for these projects. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Table 1. 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program Third and Fourth Quarter Projects

Transmission Line Name	Project Type Spacer (S) Insulator (I) Replacement	County/State	BPA O&M District	Location				Construction Schedule	
				Township		Range	Section		
Echo Lake-Maple Valley No. 1 & 2 (31.5 miles)	S	King Co., WA	Covington	23	N	5	E	20-22, 25-27	Sept. 3-14
				23	N	6	E	25-30	
				23	N	7	E	10,11,15,16,20,21,29,30	
Ashe-Slatt No. 1 (72.2 miles)	S	Benton Co., WA Morrow Co., & Gilliam Co., OR	Tri-Cities	3	N	21	E	25,25,35	Sept. 16-29
				3	N	22	E	11,12,14,15-17,20,30	
				3	N	22	E	12,14-17,19,20,30	
				3	N	23	E	4-7,24-26,33-35	
				4	N	24	E	4,5,8,17,19,20	
				5	N	24	E	22-24,27,28,33	
				5	N	25	E	6,7,18,19	
				6	N	25	E	2,10,11,15,16,21,28,29,31,32	
				7	N	25	E	25,35,36	
				7	N	26	E	3,4,9,16,17,19,20,30	
				8	N	26	E	4,9,10,15,16,21,27,28,33,34	
				9	N	26	E	2,10,11,15,21,22,28,33,34	
				10	N	26	E	24,25,26,34,	
				10	N	27	E	4,5,7,8,18,19	
11	N	27	E	1,12,13,14,22,23,27,28,33					
11	N	28	E	6					
12	N	28	E	31,32					
Captain Jack-Olinda No. 1 (6.6 miles)	S	Kalamath Co., & Modoc Co., OR	Redmond	40	S	12	E	22,26,27,35,36	Oct. 15-18
				41	S	12	E	1,6,7,18,19	
				48	N	6	E	18	

Projects Subjects of Previous Categorical Exclusions

Several spacer/insulator replacement projects covered under previous Categorical Exclusions have either been postponed or require re-replacement because the hardware installed was deemed faulty due to manufacturer defect. The projects listed below (Table 2) have been re-reviewed in June 2012 and it has been determined that nothing has changed and that the existing Categorical Exclusion remains valid.

Table 2. 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Projects Subject of Previous Categorical Exclusions		
Transmission Line Name	Project Type Spacer (S) Insulator (I) Replacement	Construction Schedule
Lower Monumental-Little Goose No. 2	S	October 1-9
Watouma-Ostrander No. 1	S	October 1-9
Captain Jack-Olinda No. 1	S	October 15-18

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/ Laura Roberts
Laura Roberts
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 28, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program; Third and Fourth Quarter Projects

Work Order #: 00255064

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 No ground disturbance required for projects– No effect to cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No Effects Determination for ESA listed species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:
Effects Determination for Threatened & Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts

Date: June 26, 2012