

# memorandum

**Bonneville Power Administration**
**DATE:** May 31, 2012

**REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:** KEP-4

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

**Proposed Action:** Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3 double circuit 230-kV transmission line reconductoring project

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00280243

**PP&A Project No.:** PP&A 1946

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

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

**Location:** The proposed Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3 Double Circuit 230-kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project is located in Grant, Lincoln, and Spokane counties, Washington, in BPA's Spokane Operations and Maintenance District. Townships, Ranges, and Sections crossed by the proposed project listed below (Table 1).

Table 1. Townships, Ranges, and Sections for the Grand Coulee-Bell No.3 Double Circuit Reconductoring Project

Township		Range		Sections
26	N	34	E	3-5,10-13
26	N	35	E	17,18,20-24
26	N	36	E	19-24
26	N	37	E	19-24
26	N	38	E	19,20,23,24,26-29
26	N	39	E	19-24
26	N	40	E	19-24
26	N	41	E	13-16,19-21
26	N	42	E	12,-18
26	N	43	E	7-9,16-18
27	N	32	E	3-5,10-12
27	N	33	E	7,16-18,21-23,25,26
27	N	34	E	30-32
28	N	30	E	2,11,13,14,24
28	N	31	E	19,26-30,35,36
28	N	32	E	31,32

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA is proposing to replace worn conductor and hardware along the 83-mile Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3 230-kV double circuit transmission line. The project area consists primarily of shrub-scrub and agricultural lands. The old conductor would be removed, connecting hardware would be replaced, and new conductor would be strung. For both removal of the old conductor and stringing of the new conductor a puller-tensioner set up, which includes a generator and a wheeled winding machine, would be used. To anchor the puller-tensioner it may be attached to a piece of heavy equipment or to blocks buried in the ground. In order for crews to access tower sites, some roads outside and inside the right-of-way would need to be improved by clearing, grading, widening, and rocking. Areas around the towers (landings) may also need to be graded to allow for safe positioning of equipment. Heavy equipment used on the proposed project may include, but is not limited to, a mower, grader, roller, and dump truck. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**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/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 31, 2012

Attachment: Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Grand Coulee-Bell No. 3 Double Circuit 230-kV Transmission Line  
Reconductoring Project

**Work Order #:** 00280243

**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 The Mitigation Implementation Table details Avoidance Areas and site specific guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No Effects Determination for Spalding's catchfly	<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: May 30, 2012