

memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad Hamel
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Hills Creek-Lookout Point No. 1 wood pole replacements

PP&A Project No.: 2315 (WO# 297311)

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

Location: Lane County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Alvey District

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace four deteriorating wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors) along the subject transmission line. The poles are located on private residential and US Forest Service land. Landowners will be notified prior to replacement activities. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement.

There is adequate, existing access to all structures included in the project and landing work is not anticipated at any of the locations. One access road approach to structure 8/5 will need to be re-established due to county road improvements altering the approach. Some road segments will have minor resurfacing and rocking applied to assure safe access to structures. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will 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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 19, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2012 Hills Creek-Lookout Point Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 297311 (PPA# 2315)

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities. Minor rock placements at selected sites will occur to facilitate access to uneven surfaces. ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.		
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/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: June 20, 2012