

memorandum

DATE: July 30, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

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

PP&A Project No.: 2188

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

Location: Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 transmission line located in Deschutes County, Oregon, at the following structures:

Mile	Structure
5	7
6	5
7	4
16	7
16	8
17	5
18	1
18	3
21	3
21	8
25	3
30	5

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace 12 deteriorating wood pole structures along its Pilot Butte-La Pine 230-kV transmission line located in Deschutes County, Oregon. The 12 structures are located along a 25 mile section of line within a BPA right-of-way easement within the Deschutes National Forest. The work will include creating a 50 foot x 50 foot landing around each structure to allow equipment to stage for pole removal and replacement. The new poles will be installed approximately five 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 after the fall of 2012, depending on availability of scheduling a line outage.

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/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 30, 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.
- Only cleaned equipment will be used to prevent the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species.
- Vehicles and materials left overnight or other periods of non-activity will be staged within the right-of-way

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

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

Work Order #: 297902

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 Received SHPO "No Effect" concurrence May 30, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federally listed Threatened and Endangered 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:
Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: July 26, 2012