

memorandum

DATE: September 24, 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; Hatwai-Dworshak No. 1 500-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Spacer Replacement Project

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: The proposed Hatwai-Dworshak No. 1 500-kV transmission line project is located in Clearwater and Nez Perce counties, Idaho, in BPA's Spokane Operations and Maintenance District. Townships, Ranges, and Sections crossed by the proposed project are listed Table 1:

Table 1. Hatwai-Dworshak No. 1 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Project

Township		Range		Sections
36	N	3	W	6
36	N	4	W	1-5,7,8,11,12
36	N	5	W	12,13
37	N	1	W	25-30
37	N	2	W	19,20,21,25-28
37	N	3	W	32,33
37	N	1	E	29, 30

Description of the Proposed Action: In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA proposes to replace worn spacers along the Hatwai-Dworshak No. 1 transmission line (approximately 28.5 miles). Spacer replacement work may 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. Spacer 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 the projects. 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: September 24, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program; Hatwai-Dworshak
No. 1 500-kV Transmission Line Spacer Replacement Project

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: September 20, 2012