

memorandum

DATE: November 29, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-CELILO

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mark Hadley
Lineman Foreman III – TFIF-Idaho Falls

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacements along the Drummond-Macks Inn, Macks Inn-Madison, and Swan Valley-Teton 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line rights-of-way.

PP&A Project Number: 2486

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

Location: The project area is located in Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Idaho Falls District. Project locations are listed below:

Project Location							
Township	Range	Section(s)	County	Line Name	Structures	Use	Ownership
3N	44E	28	Teton	Swan Valley - Teton	10/6	Forest	Forest Service
14S	5E	19	Fremont	Macks Inn-Madison	12/5	Forest	Forest Service
14S	5E	19	Fremont	Macks Inn-Madison	12/6	Forest	Forest Service
8N	43E	13	Fremont	Drummond-Macks Inn	3/5	Agriculture	Private
13N	43E	13	Fremont	Drummond-Macks Inn	36/1	Forest	Forest Service

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the subject transmission lines. Wood poles will be replaced at five structures along the Drummond-Macks Inn, Macks Inn-Madison, and Swan Valley-Teton 115-kV lines. 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. New

landing construction or access road development is not planned at these locations. Minor maintenance of landing and roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required.

The proposed action 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) 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.

With the actions 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 29, 2012

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Drummond-Macks Inn, Macks Inn-Madison, and Swan Valley-Teton Wood Pole Replacements FY13

Work Order #: 319114

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed in the project location attachment. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. ▪ 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"/>
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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Frederick J. Walasavage

Date: November 26, 2012

Frederick J. Walasavage, KEP/Celilo