

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 24, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacy Hensley  
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

**Proposed Action:** Conductor maintenance on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Big Eddy-Redmond transmission line

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

**Location:** Approximately six miles southeast of The Dalles in Wasco County, Oregon. TIN, R14E, Sec 4, 5, 9, 20, 28, 29, and 33

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to perform routine maintenance on the Big Eddy-Redmond, 230-kilovolt transmission line conductor. The proposed work includes re-sagging the transmission line, and replacing the transmission line hardware and transmission line insulators from structures 4/5 through 9/4. Additionally, BPA is proposing to replace the conductor from structure 8/4 to 9/4.

From structure 4/5 to 9/4, the right-of-way exists within agricultural fields. The proposed work would be conducted after the summer wheat is cut and before the winter wheat is planted. No crop damaged is expected. However, if crop damage occurs, BPA has negotiated that the farmer will restore any unforeseen disturbance and be compensated for damages.

BPA linemen will use established access roads and easement rights to perform work in these locations. Linemen will transit in the existing BPA access roads of the entire section of line from 4/3 to 9/4, performing work in the towers with helicopter, standard work trucks, and Utility Vehicles. BPA Linemen will be using a BPA helicopter on the project with a landing zone off access road BE-S-7-AR just off Lower Eight Mile in Wasco County. The helicopter site will not be improved as it is sufficiently stable and flat.

BPA crews propose to improve the landing at 9/4 by applying approximately 200 tons of aggregate rock to level and stabilize the area for pulling the conductor. No soil disturbance is expected. During construction at least one 500 gallon water tank will be on site for fire and dust suppression.

**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.

/s/ John Howington

John Howington  
Environmental Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 24, 2013

Attachments:

Effects Determination for T&E Species

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** BPA proposes a conductor maintenance project on the Big Eddy – Redmond 230kV transmission line.

**Prepared by:** John Howington      **Routing:** KEP-4      **Date:** 5/30/13

**This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:**

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources No Ground disturbance and the project area is outside the Columbia Scenic Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species in the project area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No work in or around water	<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 agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities Dust suppression using water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

- ESA Effects Determination

Signed: John Howington

Date: June 17, 2013

John Howington, KEP-4