

memorandum

DATE: June 13, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacements on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 2484

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

Location: Deschutes County, Oregon, at the following structures:

| Mile | Structure |
|------|-----------|
| 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 |
| 11 | 3 |
| 13 | 5 |
| 13 | 8 |
| 14 | 1 |
| 15 | 1 |
| 16 | 3 |
| 16 | 5 |
| 21 | 7 |
| 21 | 9 |
| 22 | 2 |
| 22 | 4 |
| 22 | 5 |
| 23 | 5 |
| 27 | 2 |

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA is proposing to replace 19 deteriorating wood pole structures along its Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1, 230-kilovolt transmission line located in Deschutes County, Oregon. The 19 structures

are located along a 23 mile section of line within a BPA right-of-way easement within the Deschutes National Forest and private land. 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 summer/fall of 2013, 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/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: June 13, 2013

Attachments:

No Effect Determination

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

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

Work Order #: 319059

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 February 14, 2013 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit is known to be within the project area. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands Pole removal and installation will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near water bodies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Areas of special designation Received Special Use Permit from Forest Service on May 28, 2013 authorizing the wood pole replacement project within the Deschutes National Forest. Included with the Special Use Permit were mitigation measures that are included in the Provisions attachment of this CX | <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):

Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: June 11, 2013

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4