

memorandum

DATE: August 20, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amanda Williams
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: 2013 Kalispell District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2123 (Anaconda-Silver Bow #1), 1839 (Garrison-Anaconda #1), 2124 (Hot Springs-Rattlesnake #1), 2125 (Rattlesnake-Garrison #1), 2127 (Kalispell-Kerr #1), 2128 (Libby-Bonnars Ferry #1), 2129 (Columbia Falls-Trego #1)

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

Location: Various transmission lines located in Deer Lodge, Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Missoula, Powell, and Sanders counties, Montana. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (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. 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.

Landing maintenance and/or construction will be limited to establishing an area approximately 100 feet ahead on line and 100 feet back on line of each structure and from center line, approximately 50 feet on each side of the structures listed for replacement.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which 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, 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 20, 2013

Attachments:

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

Project Location Attachment

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS	County
Anaconda-Silver Bow No. 1	3/1	T4N, R10W, SEC28	Deer Lodge
Garrison-Anaconda No. 1	20/4	T6N, R10W, SEC9	Powell
Hot Springs-Rattlesnake No.1	18/6	T19N, R22W, SEC15	Sanders
	19/2	T19N, R22W, SEC23	Sanders
	26/5	T18N, R21W, SEC20	Sanders
	27/6	T18N, R21W, SEC28	Sanders
	28/3	T18N, R21W, SEC33	Sanders
	56/3	T14N, R19W, SEC29	Missoula
Rattlesnake-Garrison No. 1	52/6	T9N, R12W, SEC1	Granite
	40/4	T11N, R13W, SEC32	Granite
Kalispell-Kerr No. 1	9/4	T27N, R21W, SEC15	Flathead
	9/5, 9/6, 10/1, 10/2, 10/3	T27N, R21W, SEC22	Flathead
	10/7	T27N, R21W, SEC27	Flathead
	16/8, 16/9	T26N, R21W, SEC24	Flathead
	17/5, 17/6, 17/8, 18/1	T26N, R21W, SEC26	Flathead
	30/8	T24N, R21W, SEC30	Lake
	40/2	T23N, R21W, SEC36	Lake
	40/3, 40/4, 40/6, 40/7, 41/1, 41/2, 41/4	T22N, R21W, SEC1	Lake
41/7, 41/9, 41/10	T22N, R21W, SEC12	Lake	
Libby-Bonnars Ferry No.1	33/4, 34/5	T31N, R33W, SEC18	Lincoln
	34/6, 34/7	T31N, R33W, SEC7	Lincoln
	34/8, 35/3	T31N, R33W, SEC6	Lincoln
	36/2	T32N, R34W, SEC36	Lincoln
	38/4	T32N, R34W, SEC26	Lincoln
	39/5	T32N, R34W, SEC22	Lincoln
	40/2, 40/4, 40/5	T32N, R34W, SEC15	Lincoln
	41/1, 42/1	T32N, R34W, SEC9	Lincoln
	43/1	T32N, R34W, SEC5	Lincoln
	43/3, 43/7, 44/1	T33N, R34W, SEC35	Lincoln
	44/3, 44/4	T33N, R34W, SEC26	Lincoln
Columbia Falls-Trego No. 1	9/5	T30N, R21W, SEC17	Flathead
	14/2	T31N, R22W, SEC33	Flathead
	32/7	T33N, R23W, SEC30	Flathead

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2013 Kalispell District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 2123 (Anaconda-Silver Bow #1), 1839 (Garrison-Anaconda #1), 2124 (Hot Springs-Rattlesnake #1), 2125 (Rattlesnake-Garrison #1), 2127 (Kalispell-Kerr #1), 2128 (Libby-Bonners Ferry #1), 2129 (Columbia Falls-Trego #1)

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.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural surveys were performed at all proposed FY13 wood pole replacement locations and associated landings. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by the undertaking with the exception of the Libby-Bonners Ferry structure 40/4. At this location, it was recommended that an onsite cultural monitor be present during replacement activities since the structure is near a cultural site. TLM is aware of the onsite monitor requirement for this structure and will perform replacement operations at this location with an onsite monitor present. SHPO concurred with BPA recommendation of No Historic Properties affected for all projects. ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead will be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listed fish species may inhabit streams that are within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species therefore there will be “No Effect” to listed fish species or critical/essential fish habitat. ▪ Listed animal species may be present within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not expected to alter or affect habitat conditions for their respective prey species or affect existing habitat and/or distribution. With respect to potential habitat conditions and possible future occupancy of the project area by listed animal species, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by any listed animal species; therefore, this project will have a “No Effect” on listed animal species or habitat. 		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road maintenance or structure replacements therefore there will be a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat. 		
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

8. Other (describe)

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales

Date: August 15, 2013

Michael A. Rosales, KEPR-Bell-1