

memorandum

DATE: July 31, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: 2013 Spokane District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2131 (Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1), 2132 (Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1), 2492 (Albeni Falls-Pine Street No. 1), 2133 (Bell-Boundary No. 3), 2134 (Bell-Addy No. 1), 2135 (Bell-Trentwood No. 1), 2136 (Bell-Trentwood No. 2), 2137 (Libby-Bonnors Ferry No. 1), 2493 (Boundary-Nelway #1), 2494 (Colville-Boundary #1), 1547 (Four Lakes Tap), 2138 (Green Bluff Tap), 2495 (Sand Creek-Bonnors Ferry No. 1 and No. 2), and 1929 (Spirit Tap)

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

Location: Various transmission lines located in Washington (Stevens, Spokane, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties), Idaho (Bonner County) and Montana (Lincoln County). 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 construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

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: July 31, 2013

Attachments:

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

Project Location Attachment

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS	County, State
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1	25/4	T57N, R2W, SEC19	Bonner, ID
	25/7, 25/8, 26/1	T57N, R2W, SEC20	Bonner, ID
	28/1	T57N, R2W, SEC9	Bonner, ID
Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	6/4	T57N, R2W, SEC19	Bonner, ID
	6/7, 6/8, 7/1	T57N, R2W, SEC20	Bonner, ID
	9/1	T57N, R2W, SEC9	Bonner, ID
Albeni Falls-Pine Street No. 1	1/3	T56N, R5W, SEC20	Bonner, ID
Bell-Boundary No. 3	6/7	T27N, R43E, SEC20	Spokane, WA
	41/1, 41/4	T32N, R40E, SEC26	Stevens, WA
	42/3	T32N, R40E, SEC23	Stevens, WA
Bell-Addy No. 1	7/7	T27N, R43E, SEC20	Spokane, WA
	42/1, 42/4	T32N, R40E, SEC26	Stevens, WA
	43/3	T32N, R40E, SEC23	Stevens, WA
Bell-Trentwood No. 1	9/5, 10/1	T26N, R44E, SEC27	Spokane, WA
	10/10	T26N, R44E, SEC35	Spokane, WA
Bell-Trentwood No. 2	3/5	T26N, R43E, SEC15	Spokane, WA
	10/1	T26N, R44E, SEC27	Spokane, WA
	10/7	T26N, R44E, SEC35	Spokane, WA
Libby-Bonnors Ferry No. 1	49/5	T33N, R34W, SEC8	Lincoln, MT
	55/3, 55/6	T62N, R2E, SEC25	Bonner, ID
	56/5	T62N, R2E, SEC26	Bonner, ID
	58/4	T62N, R2E, SEC28	Bonner, ID
	58/5	T62N, R2E, SEC33	Bonner, ID

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS	County, State
	60/3	TT62N, R2E, SEC31	Bonner, ID
	61/7	T62N, R1E, SEC36	Bonner, ID
	62/5, 62/9	T62N, R1E, SEC35	Bonner, ID
Boundary-Nelway No. 1	1/1, 1/3	T40N, R43E, SEC10	Pend Oreille, WA
Colville-Boundary No. 1	1/8	T35N, R39E, SEC2	Stevens, WA
	34/5	T39N, R43E, SEC20	Pend Oreille, WA
Four Lakes Tap	1/7	T24N, R42E, SEC36	Spokane, WA
	4/2	T24N, R42E, SEC33	Spokane, WA
Green Bluff Tap	1/2	T26N, R44E, SEC21	Spokane, WA
	8/3	T27N, R44E, SEC15	Spokane, WA
Sand Creek-Bonnors Ferry No. 1	11/8	T59N, R1W, SEC9	Bonner, ID
Sand Creek-Bonnors Ferry No. 2	11/8	T59N, R1W, SEC9	Bonner, ID
Spirit Tap	2/2	T38N, R41E, SEC32	Stevens, WA

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

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

Work Order #: 319023 (Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No.1), 320832 (Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1), 319025 (Albeni Falls-Pine Street No. 1), 320838 (Bell-Boundary No. 3), 320840 (Bell-Addy No. 1), 319032 (Bell-Trentwood No. 1), 319033 (Bell-Trentwood No. 2), 319045 (Libby-Bonnors Ferry No. 1), 319047 (Boundary-Nelway No. 1), 319048 (Colville-Boundary No. 1), 319074 (Four Lakes Tap), 319075 (Green Bluff Tap), 320834 (Sand Creek-Bonnors Ferry No. 1), 320835 (Sand Creek-Bonnors Ferry No. 2), 319077 (Spirit Tap)

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>
<p>1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cultural survey was performed at all FY13 wood pole replacement locations and associated landings. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by undertaking. WA and ID SHPO concurred with BPA's No Adverse Effect/No Historic Properties Affected determination for all FY13 projects with the exception of the Libby-Bonnors-Ferry which is still undergoing consultation. It is expected that the ID SHPO will concur with BPA's determination of No Adverse Effect/No Historic Properties Affected as the report findings "<i>recommends that the project will have no adverse effect on the Libby-Bonnors Ferry No. 1 transmission line. No additional cultural resources investigations are recommended for the transmission line</i>". ▪ 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. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)</p> <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. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Floodplains or wetlands</p> <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. ▪ Access to Four Lakes Tap structure 1/7 will require culvert placement and approximately 5-7 cubic yards of rock in a dry drainage to gain access to the structure. Email correspondence from USACE determined that the project would fall under a Nationwide Permit 18 if fill material (i.e. culvert fill rock) is kept under 10 cubic yards therefore the project will have a "No Effect" to adjacent wetlands. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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| 4. Areas of special designation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. Health & safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. Prime or unique farmlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. Special sources of water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. Other (describe) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <hr/> | | |

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales

Date: July 30, 2013

Michael A. Rosales KEPR-Bell-1