

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: November 12, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Scott Williams  
Line Foreman III – TFDF-The Dalles

**Proposed Action:** Insulator replacement on North Bonneville-Midway No. 1 transmission line (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion (CX) issued on July 16, 2013*)

**PP&A Project No.:** 2705

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Location:** Skamania County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace insulators along the North Bonneville-Midway No. 1 230-kilovolt transmission line. The original project comprised of replacing insulators on the transmission line structures 1/1 to 10/1 as described in the previous Categorical Exclusion for this project (July 16, 2013). BPA is now proposing to extend the insulator replacement work by about 2 miles; from structure 10/1 to 12/3.

The insulator replacement work would be conducted using standard techniques requiring an electrical outage. Using a line truck, linemen would access transmission towers and change out insulators and associated hardware. No ground disturbance or work in streams will be required for this project. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards and would help provide continued system reliability.

Work has been completed per the original CX up to Structure 5/2. The remaining work is scheduled for August 2014. The project duration will be approximately one month.

**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:  
Frederick J. Walasavage  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 12, 2013

Attachments:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Insulator replacement on North Bonneville-Midway transmission line  
(update to previous Categorical Exclusion (CX) issued on July 16, 2013)

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**Work Order #:** 338756

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**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.**

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<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work to be performed within existing previously disturbed construction foot print.</li> <li>▪ 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. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The project area is outside of the National Scenic Area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No health and safety issues are present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmlands are present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

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Signed: /s/ Frederick J. Walasavage  
Frederick J. Walasavage  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: November 4, 2013