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(08-89)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 24, 2014

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Frank Weintraub
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Raver-Covington Conductor Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 2828

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

Location: King County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace obsolete 2.5 inch expanded transmission line conductor on two segments of the Raver-Covington No. 1 transmission line from structure 1/1 to 6/2, and from structure 9/2 to 10/6; a total distance of approximately seven miles. The work is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2014.

Some road improvements and construction of landings would be required to allow for equipment access and staging. Road work would include grading existing rocked access roads and adding additional crushed gravel to the road base. Landings would be created by leveling uneven areas where equipment would be staged.

To remove the existing line conductor, crews would replace the hardware that attaches the line to the structure with a pulley or sheave (known as a traveler). A pulling/tensioning rig would be located on each end of a line segment. A line segment can be several tower spans and is usually terminated where there is a change in the angle of the transmission line. Often a piece of heavy equipment, such as a bull dozer, is used to anchor the pulling/tensioning rigs.

A lighter weight line, called the sock line, would be spooled onto one of the pulling/tensioning rigs and attached to one end of the old line conductor. The other end of the old line would be attached to the other pulling/tensioning rig. As the old line is pulled off the towers, the sock line takes its place. The line conductor proposed to be replaced is too rigid to be re-spooled and would need to be cut into sections as it is pulled off the towers.

Once the sock line is in place, a spool of new line conductor would be attached to the sock line and pulled through the span. The correct line sag and tension would be adjusted, and then linemen would permanently attach the new line to each tower.

Equipment to perform all phases of the project could include cranes, line trucks, excavators, pulling/tensioning machines, bull dozers, graders, and dump trucks.

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/ Stacy Mason* DATE: *April 24, 2014*
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
ESA Effects Determination

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Raver-Covington No. 1 Conductor Replacement Project

Work Order #: 317650

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	X	
A cultural survey was conducted with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected. DAHP concurrence was received April 3, 2014. No comments were received from the tribes.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	X	
No federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit is known to be within the project area.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X	
The project will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near other water bodies		
4. Areas of special designation	X	
n/a		
5. Health & safety	X	
n/a		
6. Prime or unique farmlands	X	
Project does not take in or near farmlands		
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Other (describe)	X	

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):
Raver-Covington No. 1 Effects Determination

Signed: */s/ Aaron Shurtliff* Date: *April 11, 2014*

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4