

# memorandum

DATE: April 25, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

**Proposed Action:** John Day Powerhouse-John Day No. 1-4 Conductor Replacements

**PP&A Project No.:** 2556

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

**Location:** Sherman County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace obsolete 2.5 inch expanded line conductor on the John Day Powerhouse-John Day No. 1-4 transmission lines from structures 1/2 to 4/3 (John Day Substation). The total corridor width, which is shared with other transmission lines, is 1100 feet. It is anticipated that lines No. 1 and No. 4 would be completed in 2014 and line No. 2 and No.3 would be completed in 2015.

Some road improvements and construction of landings would be required to allow for equipment access and staging. Road work would include grading existing rocky 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. A piece of heavy equipment, such as a bull dozer, would be 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. The old line would be pulled off the towers and the sock line would take its place. The line conductor would be cut into sections as it is pulled off the towers since it is too rigid to be re-spooled.

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 including road work would 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*

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Aaron Shurtliff  
Environmental Engineer

Concur: */s/ Stacy Mason*

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Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: *April 25, 2014*

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Attachment:  
ESA Effect Determination

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: John Day Powerhouse-John Day No. 1-4 Conductor Replacement

Work Order #: 327470

**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 A cultural survey was conducted with a determination of No Adverse Effect if the construction footprint within an identified cultural site is limited to the existing access road prism. Oregon SHPO concurred with finding of No Adverse Effect via phone on April 24, 2014 since no letter was received within 30 day review period. A formal letter of concurrence was sent April 23, 2014. No comments were received from the tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 The project will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near other water bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety n/a	<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) Disturbance on CRP land (Conservation Reserve Program) will be reseeded with appropriate seed mix	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

John Day Powerhouse Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: April 24, 2014

Aaron Shurtliff, KEPR-4