

memorandum

DATE: April 28, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacey Hensley
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: 2014 Chemawa District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2885

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

Location: Various transmission lines located in Washington, Polk, Tillamook, Clackamas, and Benton counties, Oregon. 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 and access road maintenance is not anticipated at any location. Most are accessible from public roads or from established, maintained right-of-way road systems.

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:

Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 28, 2014

Attachments:
Project Location
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Adair Tap	1\11, 1\12	10S	4W	18	Benton, OR	Agriculture
Boyer-Tillamook #1	17\2	4S	9W	6	Tillamook, OR	Commercial Forestry
	27\5	2S	9W	21	Tillamook, OR	Commercial Forestry
Carlton-Tillamook #1	7\8	3S	5W	23	Polk, OR	Rural Residential
	31\7	2S	8W	18	Tillamook, OR	Tillamook State Forest
Forest Grove-McMinnville #1	5\8	1S	4W	23	Washington, OR	Rural residential
	7\2, 7\5	1S	4W	26	Washington, OR	Rural residential
	19\1	3S	4W	26	Yamhill, OR	Agriculture
Keeler-Forest Grove #2	8\1	1N	4W	29	Washington, OR	Filbert Orchard
Oregon City-Chemawa #2	3\2, 3\5, 4\2	3S	1W	23	Clackamas, OR	Urban
	11\8	4S	1W	30	Marion, OR	Rural residential
Salem-Albany #2	9\11	8S	4W	20	Polk, OR	Agriculture
	12\9	9S	4W	5	Polk, OR	Agriculture
	15\5	9S	4W	16	Polk, OR	Agriculture
	21\2, 21\11, 22\6	10S	4W	17, 20	Benton, OR	Agriculture
Salem-Grande Ronde #1	1\7	7S	3W	30	Polk, OR	Urban
	7\5	7S	4W	8	Polk, OR	Filbert Orchard
	20\3	6S	6W	20	Polk, OR	Agriculture
	21\5	6S	6W	19	Polk, OR	Rural residential
Timber Tap	9\6	3N	5W	22	Washington, OR	Commercial Forestry

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2014 Chemawa District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 342939 (Adair Tap), 342945 (Boyer-Tillamook #1), 342946 (Carlton-Tillamook #2), 342949 (Forest Grove-McMinnville #1), 342951 (Keeler-Forest Grove #2), 342956 (Oregon City-Chemawa #2), 342957 (Salem-Albany #2), 342958 (Salem-Grande Ronde #1), 342960 (Timber 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>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. ▪ 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. ▪ A monitor, preferably an archaeologist, should be on site during construction. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):
Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: April 15, 2014

Benjamin Tilley, KEP-ALVEY