

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 2, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stephen Bailor  
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3**Proposed Action:** Hood River-Coop Service No. 1 Access Road Maintenance**PP&A Project No.:** 2964**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance**Location:** See table below:

| Line Corridor                 | Structures  | TRS                | County, State             | Ownership |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Hood River-Coop Service No. 1 | 1/8 to 1/13 | 2N, 10E, Section 1 | Hood River County, Oregon | Private   |

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance on about 900 feet of the BPA Hood River-Coop Service No. 1 12.5 kilovolt transmission line corridor in Hood River, Oregon. Land along the corridor consists of private agricultural properties.

The roadwork is needed to improve access for crews that will be maintaining the transmission line and towers within the transmission line corridor. All proposed work will occur within the existing road prisms and will not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbeds. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands.

The project includes but is not limited to:

- Reshaping, grading and compacting existing road surfaces and landing
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock
- Constructing or reconditioning of water bars, drain dips and outlet ditches

**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/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 2, 2014

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Hood River-Coop Service No. 1 Transmission line Road Maintenance

Work Order #: 319560

**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"> <li>▪ Work to be performed within existing previously disturbed construction footprint.</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> |                                      |   |
| 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 0.5 miles of the subject transmission line structures.   |                                      |   |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
| 4. Areas of special designation  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
| The project area is outside of the National Scenic Area.   |                                      |   |
| 5. Health & safety   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
| No health and safety issues are present.   |                                      |   |
| 6. Prime or unique farmlands   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
| No prime or unique farmlands are present in the project area. Those farmlands that are present will be available for use based on project design. BPA has worked with the landowner to maintain use of the land.   |                                      |   |
| 7. Special sources of water  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
| No special sources of water present in the project area.   |                                      |   |
| 8. Other (describe)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

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

Date: May 27, 2014