

# memorandum

DATE: October 3, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Semrau  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Malin-Hilltop Wood Pole Replacement Project

**PP&A Project No.:** 2872

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

**Location:** Malin-Hilltop No. 1 transmission line located in Modoc County, California. See project location attachment for specific locations.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to replace four deteriorating wood-pole structures along its Malin-Hilltop 230-kV(kilovolt) transmission line located in Modoc County, California. Land use in the area consists of managed forests and some grazing.

The proposed maintenance involves replacement of deteriorating wood-pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (i.e. cross arms, insulators, guys and guy anchors, etc.). The existing wood poles would be mechanically removed from the ground. The replacement structure would be in-kind, having the same height as the original. To avoid potentially impacting any culturally sensitive areas, access to the structure would be limited to travel along access roads from the east for structures 44/6, 49/1 and 49/5.

In some locations, the work may include creating a 50- by 50-foot earthen landing adjacent to the structure to allow equipment staging for pole removal and replacement. Some new poles would be placed back in the existing holes. For others, an auger attached to a backhoe would be used to drill new holes approximately five feet ahead or back on line from the existing poles. This would allow for the new pole holes to be drilled before the line outage, since this process can be time consuming and the outage of the line required for the work is of limited duration. During the line outage, the existing poles would then be removed and the new poles installed in the existing or pre-drilled holes. Ground disturbance for each pole replacement would not extend beyond a 100-foot radius around existing pole structures. Access road improvements would not be needed for this work.

The project is proposed to begin in October-2014.

**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

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Office

Date: October 3, 2014

Enclosures:

No Effect Determination

**FY14 Malin-Hilltop No. 1 Project Locations**

<b>Mile</b>	<b>Structure</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sec</b>	<b>County</b>
29	3	Modoc NF	44N	7E	31	Modoc
44	6	Modoc NF	43N	9E	29	Modoc
49	1	Modoc NF	43N	10E	30	Modoc
49	5	Modoc NF	43N	10E	30	Modoc

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Malin-Hilltop Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 343197

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 Cultural survey performed at all work areas. To avoid potentially impacting any culturally sensitive areas, access to the structure will be limited to travel along access roads from the east for structures 44/6, 49/1 and 49/5. SHPO consultation has been initiated and is on-going.	<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 Pole removal and installation will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near water bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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):  
Malin-Hilltop Wood Pole Replacement Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: October 3, 2014

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4