

memorandum

DATE: September 5, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacie Hensley
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 2,872

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

Location: La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 transmission line located in Deschutes and Klamath counties, Oregon. See project location attachment for specific locations.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace deteriorating wood pole structures along its La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 230-kilovolt transmission line located in Klamath and Deschutes counties, Oregon. Except for one site in private ownership, all sites are on either state forest (Gilchrist State Forest) or U.S. Forest Service (Deschutes and Wynema National Forest) lands. The proposed maintenance involves replacement of deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guys and guy anchors). Existing wood poles will be mechanically removed from the ground. Replacement poles would be in-kind, having the same height as the original.

In some locations, the work may include creating a 50 foot x 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 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 may be required in some locations. This work may involve grading, blading, rocking, installation of water bars, and widening of the existing road base. Ground disturbance along access roads would not extend beyond 15 feet laterally in either direction from the road centerline (30 feet total width).

The project is proposed to begin late 2014, depending on availability of scheduling a line outage.

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/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 5, 2014

Attachment:
No Effect Determination

FY14 La Pine-Chiloquin Project Locations

Mile	Structure	Owner	Town	Range	Section	County
4	2	Private	23S	11E	6	Deschutes
14	3	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	16	Klamath
14	6	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	20	Klamath
14	8	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	20	Klamath
15	2	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	21	Klamath
15	3	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	22	Klamath
16	2	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	30	Klamath
16	7	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	30	Klamath
17	1	Gilchrist SF	24S	10E	31	Klamath
17	7	Gilchrist SF	24S	9E	36	Klamath
18	6	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	1	Klamath
18	7	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	2	Klamath
19	6	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	2	Klamath
20	3	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	11	Klamath
20	5	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	10	Klamath
20	8	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	10	Klamath
21	1	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	10	Klamath
21	5	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	15	Klamath
21	6	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	15	Klamath
21	8	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	15	Klamath
22	1	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	16	Klamath
22	4	Gilchrist SF	25S	9E	16	Klamath
22	6	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	21	Klamath
22	7	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	22	Klamath
23	2	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	23	Klamath
23	3	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	20	Klamath
23	4	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	21	Klamath
23	5	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	22	Klamath
23	7	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	23	Klamath
23	9	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	24	Klamath
24	4	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	29	Klamath
25	6	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	30	Klamath
25	8	Deschutes NF	25S	9E	31	Klamath
26	3	Deschutes NF	25S	8E	36	Klamath
26	6	Deschutes NF	25S	8E	36	Klamath
26	8	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
26	9	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
27	3	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
27	4	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
27	5	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
27	6	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
27	7	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	1	Klamath
28	4	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	11	Klamath

Mile	Structure	Owner	Town	Range	Section	County
28	7	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	11	Klamath
30	1	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	15	Klamath
30	8	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	16	Klamath
32	1	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	21	Klamath
33	4	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	32	Klamath
33	6	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	32	Klamath
34	2	Deschutes NF	26S	8E	32	Klamath
34	7	Winema NF	27S	8E	5	Klamath
34	8	Winema NF	27S	8E	5	Klamath
35	1	Winema NF	27S	8E	5	Klamath
35	2	Winema NF	27S	8E	6	Klamath
35	3	Winema NF	27S	8E	6	Klamath
35	4	Winema NF	27S	8E	6	Klamath

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 343196

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 Cultural survey performed at all work areas. Two resource sites were found but can be avoided during construction. Survey report and recommendation of No Adverse Effect sent to SHPO, tribes, and Forest Service on August 1, 2014. No responses received within 30-day review period.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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):

La Pine-Chiloquin No. 1 Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: September 2, 2014

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4