



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 10, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Hills Creek-Lookout Point Transmission Line Rebuild

Environmental Project Manager: Justin Moffett, KEC-4, 503-230-3233, 503-230-5699, jtmoffett@bpa.gov

Location: Cities of Oakridge and Lowell, in Lane County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to rebuild its Hills Creek-Lookout Point 115-kilovolt, wood-pole transmission line. The 24.8 mile-long line was constructed in 1957. The proposed rebuild would include replacing all wood-pole structures, including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors, insulator assemblies and conductor. With the exception of relocating five structures to avoid a landslide in mile 3, BPA proposes to rebuild the line along its current alignment. The proposal includes reconditioning and/or reconstructing existing access roads, as necessary, to provide adequate access. New roads could also be needed to structures for which BPA currently does not have adequate access.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): Appendix C4 Upgrading, Rebuilding, or Construction of Powerlines. "Upgrading or rebuilding more than approximately 20 miles in length of existing powerlines..."

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an environmental assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021. Therefore, we have determined that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will either prepare a finding of no significant impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an EIS if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

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

DATE: June 10, 2013