



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 5, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

**Proposed Action:** Kalispell-Kerr Transmission Line Rebuild Project

**Environmental Project Manager:** Justin T. Moffett, KEC-4, 503-230-7646,  
Fax: 503-230-5699, email [jtmoffett@bpa.gov](mailto:jtmoffett@bpa.gov)

**Location:** Kalispell, Flathead County and Polson, Lake County, Montana

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to rebuild its Kalispell-Kerr 115-kV wood-pole transmission line. The 41.39 mile-long line was constructed in 1947. The scope of work would include replacing all wood-pole structures (standard H-frame construction), including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors, insulator assemblies and conductor. Existing access roads would be reconditioned and/or reconstructed as necessary to provide adequate access. New access roads may also be needed to access 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: April 5, 2013