

# memorandum

**Bonneville Power Administration**
**DATE:** April 29, 2014

**REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:** KEP-4

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Clearance Memorandum

**TO:** Stacie Hensley  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Big Eddy-Troutdale Transmission Line Insulator Replacement Project

**PP&A Project No.:** 2739

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

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

**Location:** Hood River and Wasco counties, Oregon, in BPA's The Dalles Operations and Maintenance District. Townships, Ranges, and Sections crossed by the proposed project are listed below:

Townships, Ranges, and Sections for the Big Eddy-Troutdale Transmission Lines Insulator Replacement Project Structures 16/1-22/1.

Township	Range	Sections
1N	10E	35,36
1N	11E	25-31

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to replace insulators from structure 16/1 to structure 22/1 of the Big Eddy-Troutdale transmission line. Insulators, hardware located at the attachment points between the conductor and the transmission line tower, would be replaced using helicopter and ground vehicles (pickup truck or All-Terrain Vehicles) and existing access roads. Insulators would be transported to and from linemen positioned on transmission line towers via helicopter for change out. The project would utilize two mobile landing zones/assemble areas located on private property where helicopters would utilize existing access road as a landing pad in order to exchange old and new insulators. A flatbed truck would also be located at the mobile landing zone/assemble area to provide a work area for assembly and to store and transport old insulators off site. No grading, ground clearing, or in-stream activities are required or anticipated for this project. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**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/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 29, 2014

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Big Eddy-Troutdale Transmission Lines Insulator Replacement Project Structures 16/1-22/1

**Work Order #:** 00339350

**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 The project would utilize existing access roads. No grading or ground clearing is required or anticipated for this project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Activities would not affect terrestrial T&E species because the project area does not provide suitable habitat and no listed species are known to occur within the general vicinity, as well as, all project work including helicopters use would be conducted outside the disturbance distance from critical habitat. Activities would not affect aquatic T&E species or critical habitat because all vehicles will remain on existing access roads and no grading, ground clearing, or in-stream activities are required or anticipated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No project work is required or anticipated within floodplains or wetlands.	<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):  
Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts

Date: April 29, 2014

Laura Roberts, KEP-4