

memorandum

DATE: March 9, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Heredia
Supervisory Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Big Eddy-Chenoweth No. 1 and No. 2 Pole Replacement Project

Budget Information: Work Order #00297320 and 00297293

PP&A Project No.: 2,195

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

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: Project activities would take place in Klickitat County, Washington.

Line	Structure	TRS	Quad	County	State
Big Eddy-Chenoweth #1	4/3	T02N R13E S26	The Dalles North	Klickitat	WA
Big Eddy-Chenoweth #1	5/7	T02N R13E S21	The Dalles North	Klickitat	WA
Big Eddy-Chenoweth #2	2/4	T03N R08E S35	The Dalles South	Klickitat	WA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace three aged and unsound wood pole structures on the BPA Big Eddy-Chenoweth No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines. The new structures would be placed in the same location and have the same appearance as the old structures. Guy-wire anchors would be reused if possible; however, some of the anchors may need replacement. Some minor earthwork and the addition of crushed rock may necessary at the pole replacement sites to provide a stable base for the equipment.

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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 9, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Big Eddy-Chenoweth No. 1 and No. 2 Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 00297320 and 00297293

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 On February 13, 2012, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected". BPA received no response from the tribes. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and an environmental representative should be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Known populations of gray wolf, bull trout, Ute ladies'-tresses and northern spotted owl occur far outside of the project areas. Further, the project areas do not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project areas are not adjacent to any recorded anadromous fish usage, and project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. It was determined that this project would have "No Effect" to T&E Species, or their habitat(s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The maintenance of existing BPA transmission facilities is a type of action that is exempted from being affected by the National Scenic Area Management plan. A consistency review was determined to not be necessary.	<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):

Signed: Oden W. Jahn

Date: March 9, 2012