

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 31, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Larry Benzinger
Lineman Foreman III – TFSF-Bell

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along various transmission line right-of-ways in the Bell District.

PP&A Project No: 1543 (Albeni Fall-Sandcreek/Bronx-Sandcreek), 1544 (Bell-Boundary #3/Bell-Addy), 1545 (Bell-Trentwood), 1546 (Colville-Republic), 1547 (Four Lakes Tap), 1548 (Creston-Bell), 1549 (Spirit Tap), 1550 (Sacheen-Albeni Falls), 1551 (Vera Tap)

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

B1.3 Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment...routine maintenance activities, corrective....are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

Location: Various transmission lines located within the Bell District. See Project Location Attachment for structure locations and corresponding transmission lines.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (i.e. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc) along the subject transmission line. Replacement will be in kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will 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 (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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, 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 un-permitted releases; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

With the actions 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/ Philip W. Smith for
Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist - Environment

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

Date: March 31, 2010

Attachments:
Project Location
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

PROJECT LOCATION ATTACHMENT

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Albeni Falls-Sandcreek #1	24/10, 24/11	57N	02W	30	Bonner, ID
	25/5	57N	02W	19	
Bronx-Sandcreek #1	5/10, 5/11	57N	02W	30	Bonner, ID
	6/5	57N	02W	19	
Bell-Boundary #3	6/8	27N	43E	20	Spokane, WA
	11/3	27N	42E	01	
Bell-Addy #1	7/8	27N	43E	20	Spokane, WA
	12/3	27N	42E	01	
Bell-Trenwood #1	10/4	26N	44E	27	Spokane, WA
Colville-Republic #1	16/4, 16/5	36N	37E	22	Ferry, WA
	18/3	36N	37E	28	
	20/6	36N	37E	30	
	21/3, 21/4	36N	36E	25	
	22/1, 22/2, 22/3	36N	36E	26	
	22/4	36N	36N	35	
	23/4	36N	36E	34	
	23/8	36N	36N	27	
	24/1, 24/5, 24/6, 25/1	36N	36E	28	
	25/4	36N	36E	29	
	34/1	36N	35E	19	
	34/5	36N	34E	24	
	35/2, 35/3, 35/5, 35/8	36N	34E	23	
	36/3, 36/7, 36/8, 37/1	36N	34E	15	
	37/4	36N	34E	16	
	38/2, 38/4	36N	34E	09	
	39/4, 39/5, 39/6, 40/2	36N	34E	05	
	40/4	36N	34E	06	
	41/4, 41/5	37N	33E	35	
	42/2	37N	33E	34	
43/2, 43/7	37N	33E	33		
44/3	36N	33E	03		
44/6	36N	33E	04		

PROJECT LOCATION ATTACHMENT

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Four Lakes Tap	4/4	24N	42E	21	Spokane, WA
Creston-Bell #1	43/1	26N	41E	21	Spokane, WA
Spirit Tap	2/5, 2/6	38N	41E	29	Stevens, WA
	4/2	38N	41E	20	
	4/3	38N	41E	17	
Sacheen-Albeni Falls #1	11/8	31N	45E	24	Pend Oreille, WA
Vera Tap	2/4, 2/6	25N	44E	14	Spokane, WA
	3/19	25N	44E	26	

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY10 Belll District Wood Pole Replacement projects

PP&A Project No.: 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551

Prepared by: M. Rosales **Routing:** KEPR-Bell-1 **Date:** 03/10/2010

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
<p>1. Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed in the project location attachment. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will have to be present during construction activities. ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bull trout may inhabit streams that are within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species therefore there will be “No Effect” to this listed fish species or critical/essential fish habitat. ▪ Canada lynx have the potential to be present within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not expected to alter or affect habitat conditions for their respective prey species or affect existing habitat and/or distribution. With respect to potential habitat conditions and possible future occupancy of the project area by this species, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by this species, therefore, this project will have a “No Effect” on this listed species or habitat. ▪ Bald eagles which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, have the potential to be present within ½ mile of transmission lines that are located near bodies of water. Project activities are not expected to alter or affect habitat conditions for their respective prey species or affect existing habitat and/or distribution. With respect to potential habitat conditions and possible future occupancy of the project area by this species, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by this species, therefore, this project will have a “No Effect” on this listed species or habitat. <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the project area.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Floodplains or wetlands</p> <p>At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be installed to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on water quality or wetland habitat.</p>	<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 agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed): Environmental Requirements Memorandum