

memorandum

DATE: October 18, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-PASCO

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Greg Wilfong
Lineman Foreman III – TFPF-PASCO

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along the Roundup-La Grande 230-kV transmission line right-of-way in the Pasco District.

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 designated purpose.

Location: See Project Location Attachment for structure locations

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the Roundup-La Grande 230-kV 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. New 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:

Shawn L. Barndt

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 18, 2011

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROJECT LOCATION

| Transmission Line/ROW | Structure # | Township | Range | Section | County, State |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| Roundup-La Grande #1 | 7/1 | 2N | 33E | 36 | Umatilla County, OR and Union County, OR |
| | 12/2 | 1N | 34E | 3 | |
| | 14/1 | 1N | 34E | 1 | |
| | 14/4 | 1N | 35E | 6 | |
| | 19/3, 19/8, 20/1 | 1N | 35E | 28 | |
| | 21/1 | 1N | 35E | 34 | |
| | 22/6, 22/7 | 1S | 35E | 3 | |
| | 31/3 | 2S | 36E | 8 | |
| | 32/5, 32/7, 32/9 | 2S | 36E | 16 | |
| | 36/6, 36/8 | 2S | 36E | 35 | |
| | 39/6 | 3S | 37E | 8 | |

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY12 Roundup-La Grande Wood Pole Replacement project

Prepared by: S. Barndt **Routing:** KEPR/Pasco **Date:** 10/14/2011

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 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed in the project location attachment. If new 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. | | |
| 2. 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 | <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"/> |