

# memorandum

DATE: August 11, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Kristi Unholz  
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Todd Wehner  
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Jim Semrau  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** 2014 Wenatchee District Transmission Line Maintenance Projects

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

**Location:** Various transmission lines located in Lincoln, Douglas, Okanogan, Ferry, and Chelan counties, Washington. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations, and road maintenance 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 subject transmission lines. 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, if needed, will be limited to an area not to exceed 100 feet wide by 200 feet long at each structure proposed for replacement.

Access road maintenance will be limited to mowing, blading, compacting, shaping, and surfacing existing access road segments. Reconstruction of existing water bars, fords, culverts, and drainage ditches may also occur. Approximately 450 linear feet of new access road will be constructed. Approximately 9950 linear feet of road reconstruction and 3100 linear feet of road improvements will take place within the existing road prism. All constructed, reconstructed and improved road segment will have a finished width of 20 feet.

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'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:

Michael A. Rosales  
Physical Scientist

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

DATE: August 11, 2014

Attachments:

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

**Project Location Attachment**

<b>Transmission Line</b>	<b>Structure(s)</b>	<b>TRS Info</b>	<b>County</b>
Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1	20/7	T27N, R33E, SEC17	Lincoln
Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1	21/1	T27N, R33E, SEC16	Lincoln
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1	15/3	T29N, R28E, SEC22	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1	16/8, 16/9	T29N, R28E, SEC21	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1	17/8	T29N, R28E, SEC20	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1	27/5	T29N, R26E, SEC26	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2	3/3	T29N, R30E, SEC33	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2	14/9	T29N, R28E, SEC23	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2	17/2	T29N, R28E, SEC21	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	2/8	T29N, R30E, SEC34	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	12/4	T29N, R29E, SEC19	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	16/7, 17/2	T29N, R28E, SEC21	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	17/7	T29N, R28E, SEC20	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	33/5, 33/6	T29N, R25E, SEC26	Douglas
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	18/2	T30N, R29E, SEC11	Okanogan
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	19/2	T30N, R28E, SEC3	Okanogan
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	20/3	T30N, R28E, SEC4	Okanogan
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	31/8	T32N, R27E, SEC21	Okanogan
Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	32/4	T32N, R27E, SEC16	Okanogan
Keller Tap to Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	1/3	T29N, R30E, SEC35	Douglas
Keller Tap to Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2	11/8	T29N, R32E, SEC20	Ferry
Columbia-Valhalla No. 2	2/4	T21N, R22E, SEC20	Chelan

Transmission Line	Location	Road Maintenance Description
Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2	3/3	Reconstruct 1900 linear feet of existing access road to structure 3/3.
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	31/1 to 31/2	Construct 450 linear feet of new road to structure 31/2, Reconstruct 3350 linear feet of existing access road.
Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1	33/4 to 33/8	Reconstruct 3700 linear feet of existing access road.
Columbia-Valhalla No. 2	2/4 to 2/8	Reconstruct 1000 linear feet and improve 3100 linear feet of existing access road in mile 2.

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** 2014 Wenatchee District Transmission Line Maintenance Projects

**Work Order #:** 342917 (Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1), 342860 (Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 1), 342857 (Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph No. 2), 342927 (Grand Coulee-Foster Creek No. 1), 342931 (Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2), 342855 (Keller Tap to Grand Coulee-Okanogan No. 2), 342938 (Columbia-Valhalla No. 2)

**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.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A cultural survey was performed at all FY14 wood pole replacement locations, associated landings and proposed road improvement locations. Report findings indicated no historic properties affected by undertaking. WA SHPO concurred with BPA's No Adverse Effect/No Historic Properties Affected determination for all FY14 projects listed in this CX.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead will be notified.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Listed fish species may inhabit streams that are within 0.5 miles of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species. Therefore, there will be "No Effect" to listed fish species or critical/Essential Fish Habitat.</li> <li>▪ Listed animal species may be present within 0.5 miles 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 listed animal species, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by any listed animal species; therefore, this project will have "No Effect" on listed animal species or habitat.</li> </ul>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road maintenance or structure replacements therefore there will be "No Effect" on surface water quality or wetland habitat.</li> </ul>		
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

8. Other (describe)

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales

Date: August 1, 2014

Michael A. Rosales, KEPR-Bell-1