

memorandum

DATE: November 3, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Robert Keudell
Lineman Foreman III – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Robert Zeller
Lineman Foreman I – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Proposed Action: Access road maintenance, landing construction, and wood pole replacement along the Grand Coulee-Creston #1 transmission line

PP&A Project No: 2120

Budget Information: Work Order #297343

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: The project is located in Lincoln County, Washington as listed below:

Structure	Township	Range	Section	County
14/7	27N	32E	04	Lincoln
14/9	27N	32e	03	
20/5	27N	33E	17	
21/5	27N	33E	21	
25/4	27N	33E	25	

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct transmission line maintenance at five locations along the Grand Coulee-Creston #1 115- kV transmission line. The transmission line was constructed in 1941 and many of its wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (crossarms, guy wires/anchors, insulators, etc.) have exceeded their service life. Replacement is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the transmission line system.

The structures scheduled for replacement are identified as 14/7, 14/9, 20/5, 21/5 and 25/4. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance.

Landing construction is not planned but may be necessary once crews are onsite. If deemed necessary, landing construction will be limited to an area approximately 100 feet ahead on line and 100 feet back on line of each structure and from center line, approximately 50 feet on each side of the structures listed for replacement.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of existing access roads to allow vehicle access to the structures identified for replacement. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism. New road construction is not planned or anticipated.

Erosion control measures for this project will include reseeding with a native seed mix to stabilize any disturbed vegetative areas and utilizing erosion control devices (i.e. silt fencing, straw bales, diversion dams, etc.) to minimize sedimentation of water resources during project activities as needed.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line right-of-way (ROW), which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

Analysis:

ESA Listed Species and Habitat

In response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has prepared an Effects Determination for the proposed project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources

In 2008, a cultural survey was completed at all structure and landing locations along the entire length of the line. Based on the results of the survey report, the proposed project will have "No Effect" to any historic properties that were identified along the ROW for this project. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with BPA's "No Effect to Historic Properties" determination on August 5, 2008.

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.

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: November 3, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY12 Grand Coulee-Creston wood pole replacement project

PP&A Project No.: 2120

Prepared by: M. Rosales Routing: KEPR-Bell-1 Date: 10-27-2011

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"> ▪ Field surveys were conducted in 2008 at all structure and landing locations and no historic resources were identified near the proposed wood pole replacements scheduled for FY12. ▪ 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"/>
No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the project.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 "No Effect" on water quality or wetland habitat.		
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"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species