

memorandum

DATE: November 8, 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: Cross arm replacement at six locations along the Grand Coulee-Okanogan #2 transmission line

PP&A Project No: 2146

WO#: 00136174

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 Okanogan County, Washington as listed below:

Structure	Township	Range	Section	County
22/1	31N	28E	29	Okanogan
22/8	31N	28E	29	
23/3	31N	28E	20	
23/4	31N	28E	20	
23/8	31N	28E	20	
24/2	31N	28E	20	

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct cross arm replacement at structures 22/1, 22/8, 23/3, 23/4, 23/8, and 24/2 along the Grand Coulee-Okanogan #2 115-kV transmission line. Replacement of cross arms will be in-kind. Existing travel routes will be used to access structures. Landing construction or road maintenance is not planned or anticipated. Under no circumstances will ground disturbing activities be performed between structures 23/6 or 24/5 unless a cultural monitor is present.

Many of the structural and/or electrical components (i.e. wood poles, cross arms, guy wires, guy anchors, insulators) of this line have exceeded their service life. Replacement of damaged or worn components is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the transmission line as well as maintain reliable power in the region.

Analysis:

Endangered Species Act 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

On August 12, 2010, Section 106 consultation was initiated with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for miles 17 to 41, which are located on Tribal Lands. A cultural resource survey was completed for the entire transmission line right-of-way on May 11, 2011. The report recommendations included archaeological monitoring during ground disturbing activities from structures 7/6 to 7/7 and from 23/6 to 24/5 due to the high probability of cultural resources in these areas.

On August 11, 2011, the THPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected with the stipulation that an archaeologist be present during ground disturbing maintenance activities performed between structures 23/6 to 24/5.

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: Rick Yarde, for:

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 8, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY12 Grand Coulee-Okanogan Cross arm Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 2146

Prepared by: M. Rosales Routing: KEPR-Bell-1 Date: 11-03-2011

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"> ▪ On August 11, 2011, the CCT THPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected for miles 17 to 41 with the stipulation that an archaeologist be present during ground disturbing maintenance activities performed between structures 23/6 to 24/5. ▪ Email correspondence from CCT THPO, dated November 1, 2011, indicated that monitoring was not necessary as long as there were no ground disturbing activities performed during cross arm replacements. ▪ 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"/>
Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species therefore there will be "No Effect" to this listed species or critical/Essential Fish Habitat.		
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"/>

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