

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 6, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Frank Weintraub  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Corinn Castro  
Program Manager – TPO-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program; First and Second Quarter Projects

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00255064

**PP&A Project No.:** PP&A 1899

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

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Location:** Various transmission lines located within BPA's Service Area. See Table 1 for locations of transmission lines.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA proposes to replace worn spacers and insulators along various transmission lines throughout BPA's Service Area. Spacer and insulator replacement work would be conducted on energized lines using live-line and bare-hand techniques, as well as by standard techniques requiring an electrical outage. Spacer replacement is a routine maintenance activity conducted from manned aerial carts placed on the transmission line conductor either by helicopter or line truck. Crews then access the carts to perform the work. Once changed out, old spacers are then transported to a pickup area before being sent to a recycling center. Insulators are located at the attachment points between the conductor and the transmission line towers. Using a specialized heavily insulated line truck, a standard line truck or helicopter; linemen would access transmission towers and change out insulators. Spacer and insulator replacement would require minimal ground support and all surface vehicles would be restricted to existing access roads. No ground disturbance or work in streams is required for these projects. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**Table 1. 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program First and Second Quarter Projects**

Transmission Line Name	Project Type Spacer (S) Insulator (I) Replacement	County/State	BPA O&M District	Location					Construction Schedule
				Township		Range		Section	
Santiam 500/230 Tie Line (0.3 miles)	S	Linn Co., OR	Salem	9	S	1	E	22	March 12-16
Grand Coulee SWYD 230/500 Tie No. 1 (1.3miles)	S	Grant Co., WA	Wenatchee	28	N	30	E	2	March 19-22
Alvey 500/230 Tie Line (0.1 mile)	S	Lane Co., OR	Eugene	18	S	3	E	14,23	March 20-22
Hot Springs 500/230 Tie Line (0.1 mile)	S	Sanders Co. MT	Kalispell	21	N	24	W	14	April 9-10
Lower Granite- Hatwai No. 1 (16 miles)	S	Nez Perce Co., Garfield Co., WA & Whitman Co., ID	Spokane	11	N	45	E	4,5,9-12	April 16-20
				11	N	46	E	7,-9	
				12	N	44	E	1,6,7,17,18,20,29,32	
				13	N	43	E	2-4,11-13	
				13	N	44	E	18-20,27-29,34	
				13	N	44	E	35	
				14	N	43	E	33	
36	N	5	W	13,14,19-25					
Trojan-Alston No. 1& 2	S	Columbia Co. OR	Longview	6	N	2	W	2,3	May 7-18
				7	N	2	W	19,28-30,33,34	

**Table 1. 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program First and Second Quarter Projects**

Transmission Line Name (9 miles)	Project Type Spacer (S) Insulator (I) Replacement	County/State	BPA O&M District	Location					Construction Schedule
				Township		Range		Section	
				7	N	3	W	10,14,15,23,24	
Schultz- Wautoma No. 1 (62 miles)	S	Benton Co., Grant Co., & Kittitas Co., WA	Tri-Cities Wenatchee	12	N	24	E	4,9,16,20,21	May 14-16
				13	N	24	E	2,3,11,14,22,23,27,33,34	
				14	N	24	E	5,6,8,16,17,21,27,28,34	
				15	N	23	E	2,3,11,13,14,24,25,30,31	
				16	N	21	E	1,2,12	
				16	N	22	E	7,17,18,20,21-24	
				16	N	23	E	16,19-22,27,34	
				17	N	20	E	1,12	
				17	N	21	E	7,17,18,20,21,27,28,34,35	
				18	N	19	E	1,5,6,8,16,17,21,22,26,27,35,36	
19	N	19	E	19-21,26-28,35,36					
Raver Tap To Schultz- Echo Lake (3 miles)	S	King Co., WA	Covington	21	N	7	E	4	June 5-7
				22	N	7	E	26,27,33,34	
Covington- White River No. 1 (9 miles)	S	King Co. & Pierce Co., WA	Covington	20	N	5	E	5,7,8	June 11-15
				21	N	5	E	1,11,12,14,15,22,27,28,32,33	
				22	N	5	E	36	

### **Projects Subject of Previous Categorical Exclusions**

Several spacer/insulator replacement projects covered under previous Categorical Exclusions have either been postponed or require re-replacement because the hardware installed was deemed faulty due to manufacturer defect. The projects listed below (Table 2) have been re-reviewed in February, 2012, and it has been determined that nothing has changed and that the existing Categorical Exclusion remains valid.

<b>Transmission Line Name</b>	<b>Project Type Spacer (S) Insulator (I) Replacement</b>	<b>Construction Schedule</b>
Vantage-Hanford No. 1	S	March 2-9
Grand Coulee-Bell No. 6	S	March 4-14
Napavine-Alston No. 1	S	March 5-6
Keeler-Alston No. 1	S	March 12-24
Raver-Paul No. 1	I	March 26-April 15
Grand Coulee-Schultz No. 1 & No. 2	S	March 26 –May 6
Garrison-Taft No. 2	S	June 4-July 1

**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/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 6, 2012

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2012 Spacer and Insulator Replacement Program; First and Second Quarter Projects

Work Order #: 00255064

**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.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Work predominantly above ground, travel on existing access roads only and no ground disturbance – No cultural impacts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No ground disturbance or work in streams is required for the project– No ESA impacts. See Effects Determination for specific project measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts

Date: March 1, 2012