

# memorandum

DATE: August 11, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Gary Beck  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** 2014 Spokane 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 Stevens, Spokane, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties, Washington and Bonner County, Idaho. 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. Pole 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 minor blading, grading and rocking of short 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'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, State</b>
Addy-Cusick No. 1	8/3	T33N, R40E, SEC22	Stevens, WA
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1 Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	25/3 6/3	T57N, R2W, SEC19	Bonner, ID
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1 Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	25/6 6/6	T57N, R2W, SEC20	Bonner, ID
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1 Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	28/4, 28/5 9/4, 9/5	T57N, R2W, SEC9	Bonner, ID
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1 Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	28/8 9/8	T57N, R2W, SEC10	Bonner, ID
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1 Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	29/2, 29/4 10/2, 10/4	T57N, R2W, SEC3	Bonner, ID
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1 Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1	30/5 11/6	T58N, R2W, SEC35	Bonner, ID
Bell-Boundary No.3 Bell-Addy No. 1	30/7 31/7	T30N, R41E, SEC9	Stevens, WA
Bell-Boundary No.3 Addy-Colville No. 1	60/1 9/1	T34N, R39E, SEC9	Stevens, WA
Bell-Boundary No.3 Addy-Colville No. 1	60/8 9/8	T34N, R39E, SEC04	Stevens, WA
Bell-Addy No. 1	1/4	T26N, R43E, SEC16	Spokane, WA
Cheney Tap to Silver Lake-Sunset	1/9	T24N, R42E, SEC7	Spokane, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	16/1	T36N, R37E, SEC15	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	27/7, 28/1, 28/3	T36N, R35E, SEC24	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	28/4, 28/5	T36N, R35E, SEC13	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	28/6	T36N, R35E, SEC14	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	30/4, 30/5, 30/6, 30/7	T36N, R35E, SEC15	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	31/2	T36N, R35E, SEC9	Ferry, WA

Colville-Republic No. 1	31/4, 31/5, 31/6	T36N, R35E, SEC16	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	32/5, 32/6, 32/8	T36N, R35E, SEC17	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	33/7	T36N, R35E, SEC19	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	34/2, 34/5, 34/7, 34/9	T36N, R34E, SEC24	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	35/2, 35/4, 35/6, 35/7	T36N, R34E, SEC23	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	36/2, 36/5, 36/6, 37/2	T36N, R34E, SEC15	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	37/3, 37/5, 37/7	T36N, R34E, SEC16	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	37/8, 38/1, 38/3, 38/6	T36N, R34E, SEC9	Ferry, WA
Colville-Republic No. 1	38/7	T36N, R34E, SEC8	Ferry, WA
Spirit Tap to Colville-Boundary No. 1	6/2	T38N, R41E, SEC9	Stevens, WA
Sacheen-Albeni Falls No. 1	6/7	T31N, R45E, SEC19	Pend Oreille, WA
Sacheen-Albeni Falls No. 1	7/4	T31N, R45E, SEC20	Pend Oreille, WA
Usk-Boundary No. 1	3/2, 3/3	T32N, R44E, SEC6	Pend Oreille, WA
Bell-Usk No. 1	48/11	T32N, R44E, SEC6	Pend Oreille, WA
Boundary-Nelway No. 1	1/1, 1/3	T40N, R43E, SEC10	Pend Oreille, WA

Transmission Line	Location	Road Maintenance Description
Addy-Cusick No. 1	8/3	Blade and grade approximately 500 feet of existing access road
Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1	28/8	Blade and grade approximately 200 feet existing access road
Cheney Tap to Silver Lake-Sunset	1/9	Blade and grade approximately 200 feet existing access road

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

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

**Work Order #:** 343065 (Addy-Cusick No. 1), 343063 (Albeni Falls-Sand Creek No. 1/Bronx-Sand Creek No. 1), 343058 (Bell-Boundary No. 3), 343056 (Bell-Addy No. 1), 343067 (Addy-Colville No. 1), 343038 (Cheney Tap to Silver Lake-Sunset), 343033 (Colville-Republic No. 1), 343028 (Spirit Tap to Colville-Boundary No. 1), 343027 (Sacheen-Albeni Falls No. 1), 343025 (Usk-Boundary No. 1), 343061 (Bell-Usk No. 1), 319047 (Boundary-Nelway No. 1)

**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	<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 and ID 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 a "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 a "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

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