

# memorandum

DATE: April 15, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Larry Benzinger  
Lineman Foreman III – TFSF-Bell

Loren Cummings  
Lineman Foreman I – TFSF-Bell

**Proposed Action:** Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along various transmission line rights-of-way located in the Spokane District

**PP&A Project No:** 1818 (Addy-Cusick #1), 1819 (Bell-Boundary #3/Bell-Addy #1), 1820 (Bell-Trentwood #1), 1821 (Libby-Bonnars Ferry #1), 1822 (Cheney Tap), 1823 (Colville-Republic #1), 1824 (Creston-Bell #1), 1825 (Green Bluff Tap), 1826 (Vera Tap), 1928 (Albeni Falls-Pine Street), 1929 (Spirit Tap)

**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 designed purpose.

**Location:** Various transmission lines located in Washington (Stevens, Spokane and Ferry counties), Idaho (Pend Oreille and Boundary counties) and Montana (Lincoln County) which are within the Spokane District. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (i.e. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the subject transmission line. 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 is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of 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 (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: April 15, 2011

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Addy-Cusick #1	7/2, 7/3, 7/4	33N	40E	28	Stevens, WA
	9/7, 9/8	33N	40E	24	
	12/1	33N	41E	20	
Albeni Falls-Pine Street #1	1/4, 1/8, 1/10	56N	5W	19	Pend Oreille, ID
Bell-Boundary #3, Bell-Addy #1	32/5, 33/1	30N	41E	5	Stevens, WA
	33/1, 34/1	31N	41E	32	
Bell-Trentwood #1	7/1	29N	43E	16	Spokane, WA
Libby-Bonnars Ferry #1	46/5	33N	34W	21	Lincoln, MT
	47/4, 47/5	33N	34W	17	
	49/7, 50/5	61N	3E	10	Boundary, ID
	55/1	62N	2E	25	
	57/8	62N	2E	27	
	58/3	62N	2E	28	
	60/4, 60/5	62N	2E	31	
	62/4	62N	1E	36	
62/6	62N	1E	35		
Cheney Tap	3/8	24N	42E	19	Spokane, WA
Colville-Republic #1	14/9, 14/10, 15/1	36N	37E	11	Ferry, WA
	15/2, 15/4, 15/5, 16/2, 16/3	36N	37E	15	
	16/6, 16/7, 16/8, 17/1	36N	37E	22	
	17/6, 17/7, 18/1, 18/6	36N	37E	28	
	18/7, 19/3	36N	37E	29	
	20/2, 20/4, 20/7, 20/8	36N	37E	30	
	21/1, 21/2, 21/5, 21/7	36N	36E	25	
	22/7	36N	36E	35	
	24/3, 25/1, 25/2	36N	36E	28	
	25/3, 25/6, 25/7, 25/8, 26/1	36N	36E	29	
	26/3, 26/4	36N	36E	52	
	26/6, 27/2	36N	36E	19	
	27/4, 27/5, 27/6,	36N	35E	42	
	31/1	36N	35E	9	
	32/1, 32/3	36N	35E	17	
33/6	36N	35E	40		
Creston-Bell#1	21/1	26N	37E	24	Spokane, WA
Green Bluff Tap	1/5, 1/6, 1/8, 1/9	26N	44E	21	Spokane, WA
	3/1	26N	44E	16	
Spirit Tap	2/6	38N	41E	29	Stevens, WA
Vera Tap	4/8	25N	44E	26	Spokane, WA

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** FY11 Bell District Wood Pole Replacement projects

**PP&A Project No.:** 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1928, 1929

**Prepared by:** M. Rosales      **Routing:** KEPR-Bell-1      **Date:** 04-06-2011

**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"> <li>▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities.</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 will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must 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>▪ Bull trout may inhabit streams that are within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Designated critical habitat streams include Small Creek, Winchester Creek, East Fork Small Creek, Cedar Creek, Pend Orielle River and Columbia River. 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>▪ Grey wolf, grizzly bear, Canada lynx and selkirk mountain caribou have the potential to be present within ½ mile 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 this species, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by any of these species; therefore, this project will have a “No Effect” on listed animal species or habitat.</li> <li>▪ Bald eagles and great blue herons have the potential to be present within ½ mile of transmission lines that are located near bodies of water. There are two documented great blue heron rookery sites located along the Bell-Boundary #3 transmission line. Site 1 near mile 60 is located near Haller Creek and Site 2 near mile 7 is located near the Little Spokane River. 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 this species, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by this species; therefore, this project will have a “No Effect” on migratory bird species or habitat.</li> <li>▪ Spalding’s sliene and water howelia are found within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Based on documented plant locations these listed plant species are not located near the proposed work sites, therefore, this project will have a ‘No Effect’ on listed plant species or habitat.</li> </ul> <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission lines.</p>		

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 a "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"/>