

memorandum

DATE: March 11, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Scott Williams
Line Foreman III – TFDF-The Dalles

Proposed Action: 2014 Wood Pole Replacements within Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) The Dalles District

PP&A Project No.: 2901

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

Location: Various transmission lines located in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam counties, Oregon

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
Bonneville-Hood River #1	11/7-11/10	2N	8E	1	Hood River, OR	State of Oregon
	11/11-12/2	2N	9E	6	Hood River, OR	State of Oregon
DeMoss – Fossil #1	10/7	1S	18E	12	Sherman, OR	Private
	21/6	2S	19E	23	Gilliam, OR	Private
	45/2	5S	21E	22	Gilliam, OR	Private
	46/8	5S	21E	34	Gilliam, OR	Private
John Day Station Service	4/1	2N	17E	6	Sherman, OR	Private
	4/4	2N	17E	6		Private
Hood River – The Dalles	6/6	2N	11E	14	Wasco, OR	Private

Proposed by: 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. 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. Insulators will be replaced on the Bonneville-Hood River #1 transmission line from structures 11/7 to 12/2.

The proposed action 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:
 Frederick J. Walasavage
 Environmental Protection Specialist

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

Date: March 11, 2014

Attachments:
 Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2014 Wood Pole Replacement Projects within the BPA The Dalles District

Work Order #: 00342522, 00342493, 00342521, 00342479

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work to be performed within existing previously disturbed construction footprint. ▪ 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. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The Bonneville-Hood River line is within the National Scenic Area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No health and safety issues are present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmlands are present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Clean Water Act 404 Nationwide permit obtained by BPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Frederick J. Walasavage
 Frederick J. Walasavage
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: January 17, 2014