

memorandum

DATE: March 14, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR/Pasco

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Terry Kugler
Lineman Foreman III – TFWF-SCHULTZ

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along various transmission line rights-of-way (ROW) in the Wenatchee District. The following lines will have pole change-outs in 2012: Chandler Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain #1, Grandview-Red Mountain #1, and Midway-Moxee #1.

PP&A Project No.: #2262, #2263, #2264

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

Location: Various transmission lines located within the Wenatchee District. See Project Location Attachment for structure locations and corresponding transmission lines.

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 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. New 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'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:

Shawn L. Barndt

Environmental Scientist Tri Cities District

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 14, 2012

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Project Location

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Chandler Tap to Grandview-Red Mountain #1	2/4	9N	26E	8	Benton, WA
	3/1, 3/5	9N	26E	5	
Grandview-Red Mountain #1	2/11	9N	24E	5	Benton, WA
	5/10	10N	24E	35	
	6/11	10N	24E	36	
	7/6	10N	25E	31	
	13/12	10N	26E	31	
	14/11	10N	26E	32	
	17/6	10N	26E	35	
Midway-Moxee #1	24/6	12N	21E	16	Yakima, WA

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY12 Wenatchee District Wood Pole Replacement projects

Work Order #: Chandler Tap: 297334, Grandview-Red Mountain #1: 297336, and
Midway-Moxee #1: 297340

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"> ▪ New landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed in the project location attachment. If new landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will have to be present during construction activities. ▪ 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. ▪ 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"/>
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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Philip W. Smith, for Shawn L. Barndt

Date: March 5, 2012