



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

January 15, 2010

In reply refer to: KEC-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Bandon-Rogue Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Environmental Project Manager: Kimberly R. St. Hilaire, KEC-4, 503-230-5361, 503-230-5699 (fax), krsthilaire@bpa.gov.

Budget Information: WO #248940, Task 03

Location: BPA's 115-kilovolt (kV) Bandon-Rogue transmission line extends from BPA's existing Bandon Substation within the City of Bandon, Coos County, OR to BPA's existing Rogue Substation, located near the town of Nesika Beach, Curry County, OR

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to rebuild the 46 mile long, 115-kV, wood pole Bandon-Rogue transmission line. The line was constructed in 1950 and most of the structures and associated structure components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) on the Bandon-Rogue transmission line are physically worn and structurally unsound in places. Based on the deteriorated condition of the Bandon-Rogue transmission line, wood pole structures and associated structure components need to be replaced to maintain reliable electrical service, avoid risks to the public and ensure worker safety.

The existing structures would be replaced with structures of essentially the same design, and with similar structure components. Most structures would be replaced within or near to their existing locations. Proposed activities would include improving existing access roads, establishing temporary staging areas for storage of materials, removing and replacing existing wood pole structures and conductor, and revegetating areas disturbed by construction activities. The transmission line would continue to operate at 115-kV.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): C4 – Reconstructing (upgrading or rebuilding) existing electric power lines more than approximately 20 miles in length....

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an Environmental Assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021. Therefore, we have determined that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an EIS if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 15, 2010