

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 17, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR/Pasco

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Walker Miller
Electrical Engineer – TPCF-W RICHLAND**Proposed Action:** Wood pole replacements on the Badger Canyon-Richland #1 transmission line**PP&A Project No.:** 2670**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance activities.**Location:** City of Richland, Benton County, WA

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Badger Canyon-Richland #1	4/9 and 4/10	9N	28E	26	Benton, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA, at the expense of the City of Richland, proposes to raise structures 4/9 and 4/10 of the Badger Canyon-Richland #1 115-kilovolt transmission line to provide adequate clearance between the transmission line and the road. Replacement will be with taller poles that 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. Access road work and landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

Structure 4/9 is located on an easement on privately owned property. The property owner is aware of the project and supportive of the work being conducted.

Structure 4/10 is located on an easement on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. The project was discussed with the BLM Realty, Spokane office on May 13, 2013. The BLM was content with the extent of the environmental review for the in-kind replacement. Signed copies of the environmental documentation for this project will be sent to the BLM.

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: May 17, 2013

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY13 Badger Canyon-Richland #1 Wood Pole Upgrade/Replacement

Work Order #: Badger Canyon-Richland #1: Not released at this time – use 00004963

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 WA SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no T&E Species in the vicinity of the proposed work areas		
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/ Shawn L. Barndt

Date: May 13, 2013

Shawn L. Barndt/KEPR-Pasco