

memorandum

DATE: May 5, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Robert Keudell
Lineman Foreman III – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Robert Zeller
Lineman Foreman I – TFWK-Grand Coulee

Proposed Action: Selected wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along the Grand Coulee-Creston transmission line at miles 14, 15, 21 and 28.

PP&A Project No: 1828

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: The project is located in Township 27 North, Range 32 East, Sections 3 and 4 and in Township 27 North, Range 33 East, Section 4, in Lincoln County, Washington.

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 Grand Coulee-Creston #1 115-kV transmission line. The structures scheduled for replacement are identified as 14/6, 14/8, 15/1, 21/9 and 28/7. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. 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.

Analysis:

ESA Listed Species and Habitat

In response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has prepared an Effects Determination for the proposed project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources

In 2008, a cultural survey was completed at all structure and landing locations along the entire length of the line. Based on the results of the survey report, the proposed project will have “No Effect” to any historic properties that were identified along the right-of-way.

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 State Historic Preservation Officer and the environmental project lead must be notified.

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: May 5, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY11 Grand Coulee-Creston wood pole replacement project

PP&A Project No.: 1828

Prepared by: M. Rosales Routing: KEPR-Bell-1 Date: 04-27-2011

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"> ▪ Field surveys were conducted in 2008 at all structure and landing locations and no historic resources were identified near the proposed wood pole replacements scheduled for FY11. ▪ 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"/> |
| No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the project. | | |
| 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 "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"/> |

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):