

# memorandum

DATE: January 27, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Terry Kugler  
Lineman Foreman III – TFWF/Schultz

**Proposed Action:** Replacing 11 wood pole structures on the Midway – Grandview transmission line and 12 wood pole structures on the Grandview – Red Mountain transmission line.

**PP&A Project No.:** 1522

**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), are required to maintain infrastructures in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose. Routine maintenance may result in replacement to the extent that replacement is in kind and is not a substantial upgrade or improvement. In kind replacement includes installation of new components to replace outmoded components if the replacement does not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity, or function of the facility. Routine maintenance activities include, but are not limited to:
- B1.3 (m) Repair and maintenance of transmission facilities, including replacement of conductors of the same nominal voltage, poles, circuit breakers, transformers, capacitors, cross arms, insulators, and downed transmission lines, in accordance, where appropriate, with 40 CFR part 761.

**Location:**

**11 Wood Poles along the Midway– Grandview Transmission line**

12/4 T12N, R23E, Sec 35 Yakama County Washington, Sulfur Spring Quad  
12/5 T12N, R23E, Sec 35 Yakama County Washington, Sulfur Spring Quad  
13/3 T12N, R23E, Sec 34 Yakama County Washington, Sulfur Spring Quad  
14/5 T11, R23E, Sec 3 Yakama County Washington, Sulfur Spring Quad  
21/7 T1, R23E, Sec 13 Yakama County Washington, Sagebrush Ridge Quad  
23/2 T10N, R23E, Sec 24 Yakama County Washington, Grandview Quad  
24/5 T10N, R23E, Sec 25 Yakama County Washington Grandview Quad

**12 Wood Poles along the Grandview – Red Mountain Transmission line**

2/3 T9, R24E, Sec 5 Benton County Washington, Sagebrush Ridge Quad  
2/4 T9, R24E, Sec 5 Benton County Washington, Sagebrush Ridge Quad

2/9 T9, R24E, Sec 5 Benton County Washington, Sagebrush Ridge Quad  
 3/9 T10S, R23E, Sec 33 Benton County, Sagebrush Ridge Quad  
 3/10 T10S, R23E, Sec 33 Benton County, Sagebrush Ridge Quad  
 11/2 T10S, R25E, Sec 34 Benton County Snipes Creek Quad  
 11/10 10S, R25E, Sec 35 Benton County Snipes Creek Quad

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

BPA is proposing to remove and replace wood poles in kind within the footprint of the existing structures. Equipment likely to disturb the ground includes a combination of the following: a boom truck with an auger attachment, a bucket truck, and or a crane. The wood pole will be removed; an auger will be used to remove any soil from the hole and a wood pole of the same size and diameter will be placed back within the existing hole.

**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/ John W. Howington  
 John Wiley Howington  
 Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
 Katherine S. Pierce  
 NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 27, 2010

Attachments:  
 Effects Determination for T&E Species  
 Environmental Requirements Memorandum  
 Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** BPA Mid-Way Grandview – Red Mountain wood pole replacement.  
 The wood pole replacement sites are located according to the following table:

Walla Walla Region Washington	
Yakama County	Benton County

**PP&A Project No.:** 1522

**Prepared by:** John Wiley Howington      **Routing:** KEP-4      **Date:** 1-18-10

**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 No ground disturbance outside the previously disturbed areas. 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species or critical habitat in the project area. No areas designated as EFH.	<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 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"/>