United States Government

memorandum

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

DATE: May 20, 2011

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

- SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum
 - TO:Nick WenzlJohn CarterLine Foreman III—TFE-AlveyLine Foreman I—TFE-Alvey

<u>Proposed Action</u>: Wood pole replacements and minor access road maintenance along portions of the Eugene-Lane #1, Eugene-Alvey #2, and Hawkins-Alvey #1 transmission line rights-of-way (ROW)

PP&A Project No: 1957

<u>Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021)</u>: 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 designated purpose.

Location: The project area is located in Lane County, Oregon, in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Alvey District. Project locations are listed below:

Project Location							
Township	Range	Section(s)	Line Name	Structures			
17S	4W	21	Eugene-Lane #1	2/5			
18S	4W	10, 24	Eugene-Alvey #2	6/3, 8/10			
18S	3W	21, 22, 23	Eugene-Alvey #2	11/2, 12/9, 13/5			
		19, 21, 23	Hawkins-Alvey #1	4/4, 4/9, 6/9, 8/2			

Proposed by: 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 at various locations listed above. 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.

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 (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.

<u>/s/ Philip W. Smith, for:</u> Benjamin J. Tilley Natural Resource Specialist

Date: May 20, 2011

Concur: <u>/s/ Katherine S. Pierce</u> Katherine S. Pierce NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment: Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY11 Alvey TLM District Wood Pole Replacement projects						
PP&A Project No.:1957 (Eugene-Lane #1, Eugene-	Alvey #2, Hawkins-	Alvey #1)				
Prepared by: Ben Tilley Routing:	KEP-Alvey	Date: <u>05/16/2011</u>				
This project has been found to <u>not</u> adversely affect the resources, laws, and regulations:	e following environ	mentally sensitive				
Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions				
1. Cultural Resources	X					
 Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed for the project. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an on-site 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. 						
 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) X Willamette daisy may potentially occur near structure 4/9 on the Hawkins-Alvey #1. Surveys for rare plants will be completed prior to work commencing at this site. If any are found, mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid effects to the listed species. Work will take place during mid-September to coincide with the dormant period for the daisy. No access road or landing work is planned for this location. Poles will be placed in existing holes. No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the project area. 						
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X					
4. Areas of special designation City of Eugene's Ridgeline Trail System. At 11\2 on the Eug during pole installation to maintain safe access. The trails will completion of the project in this area to maintain safe access f	ll need to be restored t					
5. Health & safety	X					
6. Prime agricultural lands	X					
7. Special sources of water	X					

8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	Χ	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X	
10. Other	X	

4

Supporting documentation is in the official project file: Environmental Requirements Memorandum.