

# memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: John Carter          Nick    Wenzl  
Line Foreman III – TFEF-Alvey    Line Foreman I – TFEF-Alvey

**Proposed Action:** Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along portions of the Lane-Wendson #1 transmission line right-of-way.

**PP&A Project No:** 1955

**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 designated purpose.

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

Structure #	Township	Range	Section
5/1, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4	18S 5W		4, 5
14/5, 15/7, 16/2, 16/3, 16/4, 18/3, 19/3	18S	7W	2, 3, 5, 6, 12
22/5, 23/4, 223/5, 24/1, 24/3	18S	8W	8, 9, 10
27/3, 29/3, 29/4, 30/4, 31/1, 31/2, 31/3, 31/6	18S	9W	7, 8, 9, 14, 15

**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 planned at several 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.

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe, for:  
Benjamin J. Tilley  
Natural Resource Specialist

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

Date: August 22, 2011

Attachments:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Lane-Wendson #1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 1955

Prepared by: Ben Tilley Routing: KEP-Alvey Date: 08/17/2011

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural Resource Survey completed 07/14/11. Two sites found (at structures 6/3, 6/7, and 7/1, and neither are at or adjacent to specific wood pole replacement project locations.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) The proposed activities in Mile 5, Mile 13, Mile 14, Mile 15, Mile 16, Mile 21, AR-220R, BLM rd. to Mile 21, and Mile 22 are within ¼ mile of marbled murrelet Critical Habitat. No habitat will be removed or degraded, and no activities are allowed within ¼ mile during the core-breeding season from April 1-August 5. During the late breeding season from August 6-September 15, activities utilizing motorized equipment within ¼ mile of Marbled murrelet habitat or occupancy will not occur within two hours after sunrise or within two hours before sunset. The proposed activities for all sites, except Mile 1, occur within Northern spotted owl Critical Habitat. No habitat will be removed, and no activities are allowed within ¼ mile of Northern spotted owl Critical Habitat from March 1-June 30.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Work in miles 29 and 30 will take place above a tunnel on Highway 126. Coordination has occurred with the Oregon Department of Transportation to assure minimized potential of loose fill material moving off-site and onto Highway 126. Road stabilization efforts will be implemented to maintain road prisms. Any loose material will be repacked into the road surface or transported out of the hazard area for the highway. Revegetation of all disturbed areas will occur immediately.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

10. Other

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