

# memorandum

DATE: July 6, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Bandon-Rogue Transmission Line Rebuild Project - FY12 Culvert Replacement and Associated Access Road Reconstruction

**PP&A Project No.:** 2178

**Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3, Routine maintenance

**Location:** T33S, R14W, Section 31, near Port Orford, Curry County, Oregon.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace a failed, fish-blocking culvert with a pre-cast concrete, three sided, 15 foot span bridge and re-grade 107 feet of the streambed (including rock band structures) with natural and/or simulated streambed material.

The new bridge would be installed on a tributary to Brush Creek and would replace an existing culvert that is perched and does not provide fish passage. Wing walls composed of ultra-blocks would be placed on the upstream and downstream sides of the proposed bridge. If possible, native material recovered from the removal of the existing culvert would be used, as needed, as fill for the new bridge. There would be no in-water or wetland work associated with the placement of the bridge sections or associated road re-alignment; however, the project would require re-grading along approximately 107 feet of the streambed (as measured on the existing stream bed), and the placement of rock bands as grade control/bed retention structures. BPA also proposes to re-grade and lower the road surface to meet the surface of the bridge, and re-grade and rock the cut slope adjacent to the road on the south approach to the bridge.

Construction disturbance areas would be reseeded/replanted with riparian and/or wetland herbaceous plant species and low-growing woody shrubs that are known to occur in southwest Oregon, and are appropriate to site conditions. Work would likely be accomplished using a combination of an excavator, dump trucks and a flat bed trailer.

**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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 6, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Bandon-Rogue Transmission Line Rebuild Project - FY12 Culvert Replacement and Associated Access Road Reconstruction

**Work Order #:** 00262814

**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.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources This project is a continuation of, and is consistent with, project activities associated with the Bandon-Rogue Rebuild project. The entire ROW and all access roads for the Bandon-Rogue Transmission line, including the culvert replacement project area, were surveyed as part of the Rebuild project. Consultation with the SHPO and Tribes concluded on June 14, 2011 with a Memorandum of Agreement. No cultural sites were identified in, or near, the area of the proposed culvert replacement, thus BPA determined that this project would not require further consultation with the SHPO and Tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat are present in the project area. Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho have the potential to utilize the project area. Project activities must comply with the SLOPES IV programmatic Biological Opinion; and with conditions contained within the Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit(s) for this project, including general and regional conditions. The project area is within ¼-mile of marbled murrelet potential habitat and project activities must comply with the conditions and restrictions set forth in the Letter of Concurrence from US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Bandon-Rogue Rebuild project dated February 3, 2011.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Project activities must comply with conditions contained within the Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit(s) for this project, including general and regional conditions. Project activities must also comply with conditions contained within the amended Oregon Department of State Lands Removal/Fill permit for the Bandon-Rogue Rebuild Project. Work within wetlands and/or below the Ordinary High Water Mark may not begin until these permits have been issued. Project activities must take place within the appropriate in-water work period (July 15 - September 30).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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/ Oden Jahn

Date: July 3, 2012