

# memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacie Hensley  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Grand Coulee-Bell No. 5 Dead End Insulator Replacement Project

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00339638

**PP&A Project No.:** 2699

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

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

**Location:** Grant and Lincoln counties, Washington, in BPA's Spokane Operations and Maintenance District. Townships, Ranges, and Sections crossed by the proposed project are listed below (Table 1).

Table 1. Townships, Ranges, and Sections for the Grand Coulee-Bell No.5 Dead End Insulator Replacement Project.

Township		Range		Sections
26	N	35	E	22
26	N	36	E	19
26	N	37	E	25
27	N	34	E	31
28	N	32	E	24, 31

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to replace worn insulators along the Grand Coulee-Bell No. 5 230-kV circuit transmission line on dead end structures 4/6, 11/5, 26/2, 35/2, 35/5, 38/4, 39/1, and 49/2. Insulators are located at the attachment points between the conductor and the transmission line towers. Using a specialized heavily insulated line truck, a standard line truck or helicopter; linemen would access transmission towers and change out insulators. Insulator replacement would require minimal ground support and all surface vehicles would be restricted to existing access roads. No ground disturbance or work in streams is required for this project. All work would 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'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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Laura Roberts

Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 19, 2013

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Grand Coulee-Bell No. 5 230-kV Dead End Insulator Replacements

Work Order #: 00339638

**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 Review of previous surveys of the corridor established that no historic properties occur within the project area. No ground disturbance is required or allowed for the proposed project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<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 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):

Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts

Date: July 16, 2013

Laura Roberts, KEP-4