

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 6, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amanda Williams  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power House-Alcoa No. 2 Tower Relocation Project

**PP&A Project No.:** 2,533

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

**Location:** Skamania County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to relocate three towers on the Bonneville Power House-Alcoa No. 2 transmission line. A description of the proposed action at each tower location follows.

**Tower 9/3:**

This structure has experienced differential movement due to a landslide and has many bent members. The project would remove the existing tower and construct a new tower outside of the slide area. The new tower would be located 370 feet to the east along the existing right-of-way (ROW) corridor. The new tower would be a single pole steel structure and would require excavation to pour a cylindrical concrete tower footing 15 feet in diameter and approximately 25 feet deep. Ground disturbance for excavation and equipment staging would be within the width of the ROW (50 feet on either side of the tower north/south) and within 150 feet in either side of the tower along the ROW east/west. A guard structure may be needed to prevent inadvertent contact with an existing overhead utility line running along Smith-Cripe Road to the east of structure 9/3. These are typically two vertical poles placed in the ground, connected with a horizontal cross arm that protects the utility line below. No new road construction is proposed to access the new location for tower 9/3 near Smith-Cripe Road.

**Tower 9/4:**

This structure would need to be moved 40 feet to the east along the existing ROW corridor in order to maintain appropriate ground clearance and spans. The new tower would require excavation to pour concrete footings for each of the four tower legs. Ground disturbance for excavation and equipment staging would be within the width of the ROW (50 feet on either side of the tower north/south) and within 150 feet in either side of the tower along the ROW east/west. Some blading, grading, and rocking of existing access roads would be required. Ground disturbance along access roads would not extend beyond 15 feet from the road centerline (30 feet total width). No new roads would need to be constructed for this tower.

**Tower 10/3:**

This structure has been moved out of line approximately 10 feet due to an ancient, slow moving landslide. The tower would be moved 40 feet to the west along the ROW and back onto the correct on-

line alignment. The new tower would require excavation to pour concrete footings for each of the four tower legs. Ground disturbance for excavation and equipment staging would be within the width of the ROW (50 feet on either side of the tower north/south) and within 150 feet in either side of the tower along the ROW east/west. Some blading, grading, and rocking of existing access roads would be required. Ground disturbance along access roads would not extend beyond 15 feet from the road centerline (30 feet total width). The locations of the access road improvements are shown on the attached project location map. No new roads would need to be constructed for this tower.

Equipment to perform the project would include cranes, line trucks, excavators, bull dozers, graders, dump trucks, and cement trucks.

**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.

Based on the provisions 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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff  
Environmental Engineer

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

DATE: August 6, 2014

Enclosure:  
ESA Effect Determination

## **Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions**

**Name of Proposed Project:** Bonneville Power House-Alcoa No. 2 Tower Relocation Project

**Work Order #:** 317654 & 317645

**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.**

<b>Environmental Resources</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance</b>	<b>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</b>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources A cultural survey was conducted with a determination of No Adverse Effect. Washington DAHP concurred with finding on June 23, 2014.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit is known to be within the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands The project will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near other water bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation National Scenic Gorge Area – Review by the Forest Service found the project to be consistent with the National Scenic Area Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):  
Bonneville Power House-Alcoa No. 2 Tower Relocation  
Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: July 25, 2014

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4