

memorandum

DATE: September 30, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacie Hensley
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 2872

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

Location: Deschutes County, Oregon. See project location attachment for specific locations.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace 13 deteriorating wood pole structures along its Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 230-kilovolt transmission line. Land use in the area consists of grazing, agriculture, managed forests, and residential. BPA has coordinated the proposed maintenance activities with the U.S. Forest Service and Deschutes National Forest.

The proposed maintenance involves replacement of 13 deteriorating wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (i.e. cross arms, insulators, guys and guy anchors, etc.). Existing wood poles would be mechanically removed from the ground. The replacement wood poles would be in-kind, having the same height as the original.

In some locations, the work may include creating a 50 foot by 50 foot earthen landing adjacent to the structure to allow equipment staging for pole removal and replacement. Some new poles would be placed back in the existing holes. For others, an auger attached to a backhoe would be used to drill new holes approximately five feet ahead or back on line from the existing poles. This would allow for the new pole holes to be drilled before the line outage, since this process can be time consuming and the outage is of limited duration. During the line outage, the existing poles would then be removed and the new poles installed in the existing or pre-drilled holes. Ground disturbance for each pole replacement would not extend beyond a 100 foot radius around existing pole structures.

Access road improvements would be required in some locations. This work may involve grading, blading, rocking, installation of water bars, and widening of the existing road base. Ground disturbance along access roads would not extend beyond 15 feet laterally in either direction from the road centerline (30 feet total width).

The project is proposed to begin late-2014, depending on availability of scheduling a line outage.

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: September 30, 2014

Enclosures:
No Effect Determination

FY14 Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 Project Locations

Mile	Structure	Owner	Town	Range	Sec	County
1	8	Private	18S	12E	1	Deschutes
1	9	Private	18S	12E	1	Deschutes
2	2	Private	18S	12E	1	Deschutes
2	6	Private	18S	12E	12	Deschutes
4	3	Private	18S	12E	14	Deschutes
6-8	access road	Private	18S	12E	26	Deschutes
6-8	access road	Deschutes NF	18S	12E	27	Deschutes
6-8	access road	Deschutes NF	18S	12E	34	Deschutes
6-8	access road	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	3	Deschutes
7	2	Deschutes NF	18S	12E	34	Deschutes
9	4	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	9	Deschutes
9	5	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	9	Deschutes
10	3	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	16	Deschutes
10	4	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	16	Deschutes
11	5	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	20	Deschutes
13	3	Deschutes NF	19S	12E	29	Deschutes
18	9	Deschutes NF	20S	11E	23	Deschutes
18-19	access road	Deschutes NF	20S	11E	23	Deschutes
21	access road	Deschutes NF	20S	11E	34	Deschutes
21	access road	Deschutes NF	20S	11E	33	Deschutes
21	access road	Deschutes NF	21S	11E	4	Deschutes

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 Wood Pole Replacement Project

Work Order #: 343198

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 Cultural survey performed at all work areas. Identified resources will be avoided during construction. Received concurrence from SHPO that the project will have No Adverse Effect to resources on Sept 17, 2014	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Pole removal and installation will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near water bodies	<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):

Pilot Butte-La Pine No. 1 Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: September 26, 2014

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4