

memorandum

DATE: August 25, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Thomas Murphy
Project Manager – TELP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: 2014 Santiam Toledo Structure Replacement 39/7

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

Location: Benton County, Oregon T11S R6W S 25

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Because of an identified NERC/WECC compliance issue, BPA proposes to rebuild the H-frame 230-kilovolt (kV) structure 39/7 on the Santiam-Toledo No. 1 line to provide National Electric Safety Code (NESC) clearance to Consumer Power, Inc.'s 69-kV transmission line.

The proposed activity would remove the existing wood poles, install new 10 foot taller poles, and perform conductor modifications to maintain conductor clearances on adjacent sections of the line. Replacement 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 and access road maintenance is not anticipated at this location. It is accessible from roads improved during a 2009 line rebuild. The primary uses of surrounding lands are agriculture and commercial forestry.

The proposed action would bring BPA into compliance with NESC standards by December 2014. All work will be in accordance with the NESC 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.

/s/ Andrew B. Chang

Andrew B. Chang
Biological Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 25, 2014

Attachments:

Project Area Aerial Photo
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2014 Santiam Toledo Structure Replacement 39/7

Work Order #: 365778

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated. ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. ▪ According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in change in the character or uses of historic properties, if any are located in the area of potential effects. An Inadvertent Discovery form should be provided and explained to the crews prior to starting work. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, and the Inadvertent Discovery protocol implemented. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taylor's checkerspot butterfly habitat has been identified in the project area, but the proposed project will take place after September 1, and larvae will not be active and exposed to mechanical damage. Institute of Applied Ecology contacted by B. Tilley and agreed that proposed activity would not impact Willamette Species.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project is located on the top of a hill, away from wetlands or water. The nearest body of water is the Mary's River, 4,700 feet from the project.		
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/ Andrew B. Chang

Date: August 20, 2014

Andrew B. Chang, KEP-4