

# memorandum

DATE: April 8, 2015

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Gary Beck  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** 2015 North Bend District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

**PP&A Project No.:** 3167

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

**Location:** Various transmission lines located in Lane, Douglas, and Coos counties, Oregon. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along five transmission lines. (See project location attachment.) Replacement will be in-kind and 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. The work area will not extend beyond the original construction footprint. Land use is predominately commercial forestry

Routine access road maintenance will be necessary in several locations to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage storm water run-off. Activities will include light blading of existing road surface and placement of road rock within the existing established road prism. Cross drains, ditches, and culverts will be inspected and cleaned if necessary. Rock will be added around several structures to improve access and crew safety.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will 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.

/s/ Phil Smith for  
Benjamin J. Tilley  
Natural Resource Specialist

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

DATE: April 8, 2015

Attachments:  
Project Location  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Fairview-Bandon #1	4/5	27S	11W	32	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	5/6, 6/2	28S	11W	5	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	8/2	28S	12W	12	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	10/2	28S	12W	15	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	11/2, 11/4	28S	12W	22	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	12/1, 12/5	28S	12W	21, 28	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	13/2, 13/4, 13/5	28S	12W	29	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	17/4	28S	13W	34	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	19/4, 19/5	28S	13W	32	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	22/5	28S	14W	35	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
Reedsport-Fairview #1	2/2	22S	12W	4	Douglas, OR	Commercial Forestry
	4/4, 5/2	22S	12W	17, 20	Douglas, OR	Commercial Forestry
	9/6	23S	12W	7	Coos, OR	City of Lakeside
	13/2	23S	13W	25	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	14/2, 14/3	24S	13W	1	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	15/4, 15/7	24S	12W	7	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	16/3, 16/4	24S	12W	7, 18	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
	17/1	24S	12W	18	Coos, OR	Commercial Forestry
Tahkenitch-Gardiner #1	1/3, 1/4	21S	12W	14	Douglas, OR	Commercial Forestry
Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1	1/2	21S	12W	14	Douglas, OR	Commercial Forestry

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1	4/2	21S	12W	35	Douglas, OR	City of Reedsport
Wendson-Tahkenitch #1	3/4, 3/5, 3/6	18S	11W	33	Lane, OR	USFS
	16/2, 16/5	20S	12W	25	Douglas, OR	Commercial Forestry
	20/1	21S	12W	11	Douglas, OR	Commercial Forestry

ROW Corridor	Corridor Location	Description of Maintenance	Land Use
Reedsport-Fairview #1	2/2 to 17/1	Improve 11,600 feet of existing access roads, improve 24 landings	Commercial Forestry
Wendson-Tahkenitch #1	3/4 to 20/1	Improve 3,400 feet of existing access roads, improve 6 landings	USFS, Commercial Forestry
Reedsport-Fairview #1	2/2 to 17/1	Improve 37,400 feet of existing access roads, improve 10 landings	Commercial Forestry

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** 2015 North Bend District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

**Work Order #:** 371045 (Fairview-Bandon #1), 371048 (Reedsport-Fairview #1), 371048 (Tahkenitch-Gardiner #1), 371050 (Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1), 371051 (Wendson-Tahkenitch #1)

**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.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scope consists of routine maintenance existing road surfaces and landing improvements as well as all new poles being placed in existing holes within the original construction footprint. Blading and rocking will only occur within the existing established road prism. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</li> <li>▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. Work will not commence until the SHPO has cleared the area.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat on Wendson-Tahkenitch #1 from 3/4 to 3/6. Work is scheduled outside of breeding season (outage dates: 8/31-9/14, 2015). No tree removal or management is required at this location.</li> </ul>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements.</li> </ul>		
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: Phil Smith for

Date: April 8, 2015

Ben Tilley, KEP-ALVEY