

memorandum

DATE: June 25, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: John Marquez
Line Foreman III – TFDF-The Dalles

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along various transmission line rights-of-way: Bonneville-Hood River #1, Chenoweth-Goldendale #1, Big Eddy-DeMoss #1, DeMoss-Fossil #1, Maupin-Tygh Valley #1

PP&A Project No.: 1635

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment... routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

Location: Various transmission lines located within The Dalles District in Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler counties, Oregon, and Klickitat County, Washington.

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. crossarms, insulators, guy anchors) along the subject transmission lines. Pole 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 replacement. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations. Specific locations include:

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Bonneville-Hood River #1	20\6	2N	10E	04	Hood River, OR
Chenoweth-Goldendale #1	12\5	3N	14E	23	Klickitat, WA
	13\3	3N	14E	14	Klickitat, WA
	13\7	3N	14E	11	Klickitat, WA
	19\8	4N	15E	21	Klickitat, WA
	3\8	1N	14E	04	Wasco, OR
	4\7	1N	14E	03	Wasco, OR
	10\3	1N	15E	16	Wasco, OR
	13\2	1N	15E	24	Sherman, OR
	17\3	1N	16E	32	Sherman, OR

Big Eddy-DeMoss #1	17\9	1N	16E	33	Sherman, OR
	17\10	1N	16E	33	Sherman, OR
	18\1	1N	16E	33	Sherman, OR
	18\3	1N	16E	33	Sherman, OR
	18\4	1N	16E	33	Sherman, OR
	18\5	1N	16E	33	Sherman, OR
	18\7	1N	16E	34	Sherman, OR
	18\8	1N	16E	34	Sherman, OR
	18\10	1N	16E	34	Sherman, OR
	19\2	1N	16E	34	Sherman, OR
	19\5	1N	16E	34	Sherman, OR
	19\6	1N	16E	34	Sherman, OR
	19\8	1N	16E	35	Sherman, OR
	19\10	1N	16E	35	Sherman, OR
	19\19	1N	16E	35	Sherman, OR
	20\3	1N	16E	35	Sherman, OR
DeMoss-Fossil #1	22\1	2S	19E	23	Gilliam, OR
	24\4	2S	20E	30	Gilliam, OR
	36\1	4S	20E	12	Gilliam, OR
	39\17	4S	21E	32	Gilliam, OR
	40\3	4S	21E	32	Gilliam, OR
	40\8	4S	21E	32	Gilliam, OR
	42\5	5S	21E	09	Gilliam, OR
	45\5	5S	21E	22	Gilliam, OR
	51\4	6S	21E	21	Wheeler, OR
Maupin-Tygh Valley #1	1\4	4S	13E	27	Wasco, OR
	1\9	4S	13E	27	Wasco, OR
	1\10	4S	13E	27	Wasco, OR
	2\6	4S	13E	21	Wasco, OR
	2\7	4S	13E	21	Wasco, OR

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be done in accordance with the National Electric 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 (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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, 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; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Benjamin Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist – KEP-Alvey

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

DATE: June 25, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Wood Pole Replacement Project FY10 The Dalles District

Work Order #: _____ **PP&A Project No.:** 1635

Prepared by: Ben Tilley **Routing:** KEP-Alvey **Date:** 4/21/10

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
<p>1. Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed in the project location attachment. • Crews will utilize existing holes for pole replacement. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. • 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. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure 19\8 on the Chenoweth-Goldendale #1 is approximately 450 feet from the Little Klickitat River, which contains summer and winter Steelhead. Structure 42\5 on the DeMoss-Fossil #1 is approximately 650 feet from Patill Canyon, which contains winter Steelhead. Structure 10\3 on the Big Eddy-DeMoss #1 is 450 feet away from Fifteen Mile Creek, which contains winter Steelhead and Chinook salmon. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species. Erosion control devices will be installed to prevent sedimentation of waterways if road improvements are required. Therefore, planned work will have a "No Effect" on these listed species or their habitat. • The Washington Ground Squirrel (candidate species) may be present with a ½ mile of Structure 22\1 on the DeMoss-Fossil #1. Planned activities are not expected to alter or affect habitat conditions and/or distribution. With respect to potential habitat conditions and possible future occupancy of the project area by the Washington Ground Squirrel, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by this species. Therefore, this project will have a "No Effect" on this species or habitat. <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the project area.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Floodplains or wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At locations adjacent to surface water or wetlands, erosion control devices will be installed to prevent sedimentation of waterways if road improvements are required. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a "No Effect" on water quality and wetland habitat. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. Areas of special designation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No areas of special designation occur within the project locations. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>5. Health & safety</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Prime agricultural lands

7. Special sources of water

8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations

9. Pollution control at Federal facilities

10. Other