

memorandum

DATE: April 23, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad Hamel
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: 2012 North Bend District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2308 (Alvey-Fairview #1), 2302 (Bandon Sub Transfer Tie), 2303 (Lane-Wendson #1), 2304 (Reedsport-Fairview #1), 2305 (Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1), 2306 (Wendson-Tahkenitch #1)

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 the subject transmission lines. 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. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations. Land use in the project area consists of commercial, forest lands, grazing pastures, and the City of Reedsport.

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

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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

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

Date: April 23, 2012

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Alvey-Fairview #1	78/5	28S	9W	13	Coos, OR
	85/6	28S	10W	11	Coos, OR
	85/7	28S	10W	11	Coos, OR
	86/1	28S	10W	11	Coos, OR
	87/7	28S	10W	9	Coos, OR
Bandon Sub Transfer Tie	1/2	28S	14W	31	Coos, OR
Lane-Wendson #1	37/1	18S	10W	8	Lane, OR
	40/2	18S	11W	11	Lane, OR
	40/4	18S	11W	10	Lane, OR
	41/3	18S	11W	10	Lane, OR
Reedsport-Fairview #1	7/5	22S	12W	31	Douglas, OR
	16/2	24S	12W	7	Coos, OR
	36/1	27S	12W	16	Coos, OR
	39/4	27S	12W	24	Coos, OR
Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1	1/6	21S	12W	23	Douglas, OR
	5/8	22S	12W	4	Douglas, OR
Wendson-Tahkenitch #1	3/2	18S	11W	27	Lane, OR
	3/3	18S	11W	27	Lane, OR
	11/5	20S	11W	5	Lane, OR
	13/1	20S	11W	8	Douglas, OR
	14/3	20S	11W	18	Douglas, OR
	18/3	21S	12W	2	Douglas, OR
	19/6	21S	12W	11	Douglas, OR
	20/4	21S	12W	14	Douglas, OR

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2012 North Bend District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 297303 (Alvey-Fairview #1), 297452 (Bandon Sub Transfer Tie), 299870 (Lane-Wendson #1), 297454 (Reedsport-Fairview #1), 297455 (Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1), 297456 (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"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities. Access road work is limited to minor rock additions at several sites on the Wendson-Tahkenitch #1 to improve access in locations heavily used by public traffic. ▪ 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. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structure 87/7 on the Alvey-Fairview #1 is adjacent to critical habitat for both the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet. The project location does not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. Work on this structure is scheduled for August 27 through September 7, outside the core breeding season, but is within the late breeding season for both species. Work will be restricted to 2 hours after sunrise to 2 hours before sunset. As a result of these mitigations, it was determined that this project would have “No Effect” to the listed species or critical habitat. ▪ Structures 85/6 and 85/7 on the Alvey-Fairview #1 are within ½ mile of the East Fork Coquille River, which contains Winter Steelhead. No access road or landing work is planned at these locations. Erosion control measures will be utilized during maintenance (i.e. silt fence, reseeding if necessary); therefore, this project will have “No Effect” on listed animal species or habitat. <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.</p>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat.</p>		
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

8. Other (describe)

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: April 23, 2012