Proposed Action: Brasada-Harney, Redmond-Brasada No. 1 Transmission Lines 2016 Wood Pole Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 3462

Project Manager: Richard Heredia – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Deschutes, Crook, and Harney Counties, OR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmission Line/ROW</th>
<th>Structure #</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Ownership/Land</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>17</td>
<td>15E</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Crook</td>
<td>BLM/Range</td>
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<td>10/5, 10/6</td>
<td>18S</td>
<td>15E</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>16E</td>
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<td>Private/Range</td>
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<td>16E</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>BLM/Range</td>
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<td>19E</td>
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<td>State/Range</td>
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<td>Private/Range</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Harney</td>
<td>BLM/Range</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood-pole structures (including cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the specified line. Replacement would be in-kind and would utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger would be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. Cross arms and braces may be also replaced at other locations along the line.
Minor maintenance of landing and access roads within their existing road and landing prisms may be required to improve access within the transmission line corridor. No unauthorized construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of water bars and drain dips.

The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

1. fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
2. does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
3. has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Fred Walasavage  
Fred Walasavage  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer  

Date: **August 23, 2016**

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist  
Effects Determination for T&E Species
Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Brasada-Harney, Redmond-Brasada No. 1 Transmission Lines 2016 Wood Pole 1

**Project Site Description**

The project activities would be conducted on BPA transmission line rights-of-way. The site locations primarily consist of private and Federal (i.e., Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District) lands. The project area is mostly flat and vegetation consists of grasses and steppe shrubs.

**Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resource Impacts</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Historic and Cultural Resources</strong></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>[]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- BPA archeological approval</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- and Oregon SHPO</td>
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<td>- concurrence on no adverse effect determination July 19, 2016.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Klamath Tribes, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Warm Springs Tribes consulted—no response.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work would immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist would be notified.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Geology and Soils**

**Explanation:** The project would require minimal ground disturbing activities. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected. All disturbed areas outside of the roadways, landings, and 15 feet from the poles would be reseeded.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)

**Explanation:** No special-status species present. All disturbed areas outside of the roadways, landings, and 15 feet from the poles would be reseeded.

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)

**Explanation:** No special-status species or suitable habitat present in project area. The work would entail minimal human disturbance.
5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
   (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)  
   Explanation: None present in project area.

6. **Wetlands**  
   Explanation: None present in project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**  
   Explanation: The proposed work is in an upland area; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 10 feet below ground surface.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**  
   Explanation: No change in land use and no specially designated areas identified.

9. **Visual Quality**  
   Explanation: New wood poles would be similar to existing structures and would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Access road work would be consistent with existing roads.

10. **Air Quality**  
    Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**  
    Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**  
    Explanation: Project activities would not impact human health or safety. The proposed action would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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**Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment
facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

- 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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

BPA has coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management Prineville District; no issues were raised.

Notification letters will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to all other landowners prior to work.

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Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Fred Walasavage

Fred Walasavage

Date: August 23, 2016