

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 16, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Michael Stolfus
Lineman Foreman III – TFKF-Kalispell

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement and minor access road maintenance along various transmission line right-of-ways in the Kalispell District

PP&A Project No: 1536 (Columbia Falls-Kalispell #1), 1537 (Anaconda-Silver Bow #1), 1538 (Columbia Falls-Trego #1), 1541 (Libby-Bonnors Ferry #1), 1542 (Rattlesnake-Garrison #1)

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 Kalispell District in Montana. See Project Location attachment for structure locations and corresponding transmission lines.

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) 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 placement. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

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 lines 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 (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 un-permitted releases; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

With the actions identified on the attachment, 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/ Michael A. Rosales
Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist - Environment

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

Date: March 16, 2010

Attachments:
Project Location
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

PROJECT LOCATION

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County
Anaconda - Silver Bow #1	03/02	4N	10W	28	Deer Lodge
	08/01	3N	9W	06	Silver Bow
	09/09	3N	9W	08	Silver Bow
Columbia Falls - Kalispell #1	01/07	30N	20W	22	Flathead
	11/10	28N	21W	01	Flathead
Columbia Falls - Trego #1	04/05	30N	20W	18	Flathead
	04/09	30N	20W	18	Flathead
	06/07	30N	21W	14	Flathead
	07/01	30N	21W	15	Flathead
	10/05	30N	22W	13	Flathead
	24/03	32N	23W	27	Flathead
	25/03	32N	23W	27	Flathead
	25/04	32N	23W	28	Flathead
	25/05	32N	23W	21	Flathead
	29/06	32N	23W	06	Flathead
	31/05	33N	23W	32	Flathead
	33/01	33N	23W	30	Flathead
41/02	33N	25W	01	Flathead	
Libby - Bonners Ferry #1	04/08	31N	30W	25	Lincoln
	05/01	31N	30W	25	Lincoln
	05/02	31N	30W	25	Lincoln
	33/03	31N	33W	18	Lincoln
	33/06	31N	33W	18	Lincoln
	37/05	32N	34W	26	Lincoln
	38/06	32N	34W	23	Lincoln
	38/08	32N	34W	22	Lincoln
Rattlesnake - Garrison #1	40/04	11N	13W	32	Granite
	42/01	10N	13W	04	Granite
	52/06	09N	12W	01	Granite
	53/08	09N	11W	07	Powell
	56/05	09N	11W	21	Powell
	58/09	09N	11W	26	Powell

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY10 Kalispell District Wood Pole Replacement projects

PP&A Project No.: 1536, 1537, 1538, 1541, 1542

Prepared by: M. Rosales **Routing:** KEPR-Bell-1 **Date:** 02/24/2010

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
1. 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 in the project location attachment. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal, an on-site cultural monitor will have to be present during construction activities. ▪ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bull trout and White sturgeon may inhabit streams that are within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species. Therefore, there will be “No Effect” to these listed species or critical/essential fish habitat. ▪ Canada lynx and Grizzly bear have the potential to be present within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Project activities are not expected to alter or affect habitat conditions for their respective prey species or affect existing habitat and/or distribution. With respect to potential habitat conditions and possible future occupancy of the project area by Canada lynx and/or Grizzly bear, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by either of these species. Therefore, this project will have “No Effect” on these listed species or their habitat. ▪ Spalding’s campion is found within ½ mile of the various transmission lines. Based on documented plant locations these listed plant species are not located near the proposed work sites. Therefore, this project will have a “No Effect” on listed plant 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>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be installed to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on 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 agricultural lands

7. Special sources of water

8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations

9. Pollution control at Federal facilities

10. Other

List supporting documentation attached (if needed): Environmental Requirements Memorandum