



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 17, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Keeler-Forest Grove, Forest Grove-Tillamook 115-kV Line Rebuild

Environmental Project Manager: Claire McClory, KEC-4, 503-230-5922,
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Location: Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line extends from BPA's existing Keeler Substation located in Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon west to BPA's Forest Grove Substation in Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon then west to BPA's Tillamook Substation in Tillamook, Tillamook County, Oregon.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to rebuild its 58 mile long, 115-kilovolt (kV) wood pole Keeler-Forest Grove and Forest Grove-Tillamook transmission lines. The original lines were constructed in the 1950s and most of the structures and associated structure components on the transmission line are physically worn and structurally unsound in places. The deteriorated transmission lines, (wood pole structures, switches, cross arms, braces, guys, anchors, insulator assemblies and conductor) need to be replaced in order to maintain reliable electrical service, avoid risks to the public, and ensure worker safety.

The existing structures would be replaced with structures of essentially the same design, and with similar structure components. Most structures would be replaced within or near to their existing locations. Proposed activities would also include improving existing access roads, constructing some new access roads, establishing temporary staging areas for storage of materials, and revegetating areas disturbed by construction activities. The transmission line would continue to operate at 115-kV.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): C4. Upgrading or rebuilding more than approximately 20 miles in length of existing power lines.

We have determined that the proposed action is within the class of actions normally requiring an Environmental Assessment (EA), but not necessarily requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as listed in Subpart D of 10 C.F.R. Part 1021. Therefore, we have determined

that an EA will be prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed action. On the basis of the analysis in the EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and proceed with the action, or will prepare an EIS if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts.

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

DATE: July 17, 2012