

memorandum

DATE: June 2, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP/Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Richard Heredia
Project Manager - TNFF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Wood pole replacement with steel towers.

Budget Information: Work Order #

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 – Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

Location: The project extends from the BPA Dixie Substation to the Mountain Home Substation. The site is located north of Mountain Home, Idaho and directly to the south of the Anderson Ranch Dam. T01S, R08E, Secs. 1, 11, 12, 14, 23, 26, 27, and 34, T02S, R08E, Secs. 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, and 18; T02E, R07E, Secs. 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32, 33; T03E, R07E, Secs. 5, 8, and 9, WM, Elmore County, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The pole replacement portion of the Anderson Ranch-Mountain Home 115 kV Pole Replacement Project involves changing out 18 miles or all of the existing, aging wood poles installed around 1950 by the USBR with wood equivalent steel poles. General structure types will be maintained and the conductor reused. All aging insulators will be replaced with new porcelain insulators

Also involved in the project is the replacement of approximately five wood pole structures with two lattice steel dead end structures at the crossing of the South Fork of the Boise River. This project is being coordinated with the USBR, Idaho Power Company, the USFS, and the BLM. All five wooden pole structures (0/3 – 0/7) have exceeded their design service life and need to be replaced. By placing two new steel lattice towers, all five wood pole structures would be eliminated and all structures on the steep south side of the canyon would be removed.

An approximate 1,400-foot temporary access road will be required to gain limited access to tower 0/3. The road will be a 10' wide cat track road off of the existing spur 900 feet to the west of and below structure 0/3. The access road will be constructed using cut and fill type construction. A landing will be cut into a rock knob ridge for the new tower location.

The road to Tower 0/3 will be closed along its entire length using a Backhoe in FY 04. All the work for this project will be done with backhoes, bulldozers, and dump trucks. For Tower 0/7, improvements to the existing road will be conducted. The overall length of this road is 0.9 miles. A bulldozer will be required to blade the existing road to remove ruts, reshape the travel way and to improve the running surface. Approximately 400 cubic yards of aggregate material will be placed on the road to reinforce the road subgrade through the borrow pit area. In addition, minor ground disturbing activities will occur at the new Tower 0/7 installation site. A new staging area, within the already cleared right-of-way, approx. 50 feet wide by 125 feet long will be rough graded and leveled. After tower installation, this staging area will be scarified and reseeded. Trees will be removed 500 feet west of Tower 0/7 to allow for line sagging.

Analysis:

Environmentally sensitive resources: BPA received a Species List for the project area from USFWS on October 28, 2003. In response to Sec. 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA has prepared an Endangered Species Act Effects Determination for the proposed project. BPA has developed a Biological Assessment and has recommended conservation measures for listed T&E species that have been included in the plans and specifications for the project.

Cultural Resources: A Cultural Resource Survey has been completed for the subject project and no sites, features or artifacts were located during the field survey or identified through out the literature review. BPA has determined the project will have **no effect** on cultural resources.

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 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 non-permitted 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/ James R. Meyer for
Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6/4/2004