



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 12, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

Proposed Action: Midway-Moxee Transmission Line Rebuild Project

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Budget Information: Work Order 00317588 Task 01 TVAG

Location: BPA Midway Substation, Benton County, Washington (approximately 8 miles southeast of the town of Desert Aire) to BPA Moxee Substation in Moxee City, Yakima County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to rebuild the 34-mile long Midway-Moxee No. 1 115-kilovolt (kV) wood-pole transmission line. The rebuild is needed because the transmission line, which was built in the early 1940's, is old and physically worn. The existing wood-pole structures and electrical wires (conductors) show normal deterioration due to age. The original conductor has not been replaced and does not meet current standards. Rebuilding this transmission line would enable BPA to provide reliable electric power to local utilities.

The project would include replacing existing transmission line infrastructure, including wood-pole transmission structures, associated structural components, and conductor. The H-frame structures consist of either two or three wood poles. Most wood poles would be removed and replaced in or near their existing locations. Some existing access roads would need to be improved to provide construction access and some new access roads may be needed to access structures that currently do not have access. The rebuilt transmission line would continue to operate at 115-kV.

Most of the transmission line right-of-way is in private ownership, except for approximately two miles within the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Reach National Monument, less than one mile within parcels owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and approximately two miles within parcels owned by the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): C4 Upgrading, rebuilding, or construction of 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/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: December 12, 2012