



## Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 13, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION

**Proposed Action:** Grand Coulee-Creston Transmission Line Rebuild

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**Budget Information:** Work Order 00315462, Task 01, TVAG

**Location:** Coulee Dam (Grant County) and Creston (Lincoln County), Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to rebuild nearly 28 miles of the Grand Coulee-Creston No. 1 115-kV transmission line between the cities of Coulee Dam in Grant County and Creston in Lincoln County, Washington. The project would include replacing all wood pole structures (including poles, cross arms, cross braces, guys, anchors and insulator assemblies) and conductor (including groundwire and fiber communications), improving existing access roads, and developing temporary access roads. The rebuilt line will continue to operate at 115-kV. The intention is that the rebuilt line will maintain at the same structure locations and similar pole heights as the existing line. The existing line was built in 1941 and is in need of replacement due to age, rot, and deterioration. Rebuilding the line would help maintain reliable electrical service and avoid risks to the safety of the public and maintenance crews.

**Class of Action to be Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** Appendix C to Subpart D of Part 1021 – Classes of Actions That Normally Require EAs But Not Necessarily EISs: **C4 Upgrading, rebuilding, or construction of powerlines.**

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: November 13, 2012