

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: OCT 27 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Cleareance Memorandum

to: Larry Benzinger – TFSF-Bell  
TLM Foreman III

Loren Cummings – TFSF-Bell  
TLM Foreman I

**Proposed Action:** Construct landings and access roads in support of wood pole replacement activities along the Spirit Tap to Colville-Boundary #I Transmission Line.

**PP&A Project No.:** PP&A 1267

**Budget Information:** WO# 188846

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):**

B1.3 Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures (e.g., pathways, roads, and railroads) and equipment

B1.13 Construction, acquisition and relocation of onsite pathways and short onsite access roads and railroads

**Location:** The project is located in Stevens County, Washington in Township 38 North, Range 41 East, Section 29.

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

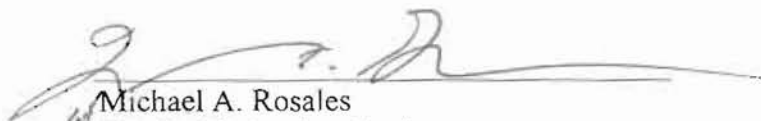
**Description of the Proposed Action:** Approximately 400 linear feet of new road and two equipment landings will be constructed so that deteriorating wood poles can be replaced at structure locations 2/5 and 2/6. The new road construction will start from an existing road to the specified transmission line structures. Road construction will include blading, grading, shaping, installing geo-tech fabric and laying down rock surfacing on the road surface. Finished road width will be approximately 12 feet. Landing construction will involve mowing vegetation, laying down geo-tech fabric and placing crushed rock material in an area 90 feet long by 24 feet wide at each structure. In addition, culverts will be installed in a seasonal creek channel adjacent to the structures to direct high seasonal flows away from the structures.


Erosion control measures will utilize erosion control devices (i.e. silt fencing, straw bales, diversion dams, etc.) to minimize sedimentation of nearby water resources during project activities and will include reseeding with a native seed mix to stabilize any disturbed vegetative areas that were impacted by project activities.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the right-of-way, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

**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 (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, April 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). 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 action with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impact [40 C.F.R. 1508(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 unpermitted release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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.

  
 Michael A. Rosales  
 Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur:   
 Katherine S. Pierce  
 NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: October 27, 2009

Attachment

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

cc:

G. Lynard – KEC-4

P. Smith – KEP-4

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

H. Adams – LC-7

Official File – KEP (EQ-15-11)

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Spirit Tap to Colville-Boundary #1  
 Work Order #: 188846 PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1267  
 Prepared by: M. Rosales Routing: KEPR-Bell-1 Date: 10-21-2009

**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"> <li>▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.</li> <li>▪ A cultural resource field survey was completed for this project. A "No Historic Properties Affected" determination was made and the SHPO concurred on August 19, 2009.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water resources (streams, ponds, wetlands) are present within ½ mile of the project area. For this project, road repairs are not expected to affect these water resources but erosion control devices will be installed as needed to prevent sedimentation of these resources.</li> </ul>		
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):