

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: November 30, 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Curtis Michael  
Electrical Engineer - TFOD-OLYMPIA

**Proposed Action:** Port Angeles-Sappho #1 Line Tap

**Budget Information:** Work Order # 00004866, Task # 04

**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..."

**Location:** Port Angeles, Clallam County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Clallam County Public Utility District (PUD)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to install a new tap and associated disconnect structures on BPA's Port Angeles-Sappho #1 115-kV transmission line to provide a point of interconnection for Clallam County PUD's proposed new Silverado Substation. Clallam County PUD is proposing to construct the substation directly adjacent to the Port Angeles-Sappho #1 transmission line to provide upgraded, reliable service to the rural residential load in the area.

The installation of the new tap would require the construction of two new disconnect switch structures and one new double wood-pole tower structure located within BPA's existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW). The steel-lattice disconnect switches would be installed underneath the existing transmission line, and would be located approximately 14 feet back-on-line from tower 18/3 and 14 feet ahead-on-line from tower 18/4. The switch structures would be 12 feet wide (to match the adjacent tower width) by 5.5 feet long. Construction would require 4 holes, each 2 feet in diameter and 6 feet deep, for the supports. The Port Angeles-Sappho #1 transmission line would be tied into these structures.

The new double wood-pole structure would be located between towers 18/3 and 18/4 and would serve as a dead end structure to support the tap line to Silverado Substation. The tap line would be suspended below the Port Angeles-Sappho #1 line and attach to the conductors via jumpers and implosive fittings. The disturbance area to construct the double-pole wood structure would be less than 100 feet by 100 feet. Within this area, poles would be staged on the ground, bucket trucks and equipment would be parked, and an auger or backhoe would be used to excavate holes for the new poles. The new poles would be placed approximately 10 feet below grade and

may require supporting guy wires that would be anchored within BPA's ROW. There are existing access roads spurring from a maintained county road that runs directly through the project area. There will be no tree removal as a result of this project. Erosion and sediment controls will be implemented as necessary to eliminate any effects from potential erosion

BPA would also install a revenue meter and related equipment within the new Silverado Substation. This would not require any ground disturbance.

**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, Apr. 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 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 unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

A review of Clallam County, Washington federally-listed species recorded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries office (NOAA Fisheries) indicated that marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and bull trout may be present within the project area. The proposed project is also within designated Pacific salmon freshwater Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Olympic Peninsula Coho salmon. The proposed project is located over ½ mile from marbled murrelet critical habitat and there is no spotted owl critical habitat within 4 miles of the project site. The project site is within an existing, cleared transmission line right-of-way and no suitable habitat or designated critical habitat for either species will be disturbed. There is a perennial stream, Whiskey Creek, located approximately 220 feet from the proposed project site that does not support a bull trout population, but does have Coho salmon present. To avoid any potential impacts to aquatic species and EFH, no ground disturbing activities will occur within 150 feet of the stream and no in-water work will occur. No pollutants, contaminants, or sediments will enter any waterways due to project construction. Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of no effect for all ESA-listed species. Likewise, pursuant to its obligation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, BPA has made a determination that the proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. BPA prepared a "No Effect" memorandum for the record.

There will be no effect to floodplains or wetlands from the proposed project.

Pursuant to its obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, BPA initiated consultation with the WA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Background research conducted by BPA indicated that there are no previously recorded archaeological resources located within a mile of the project area, and no cultural materials were observed on the surface or in a shovel test probe during a field survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) on June 11, 2009. BPA sent letters, including a copy of the cultural resources report stating the findings, to the Washington SHPO and seven area tribes. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe expressed interest in the project in the initial consultation, and concurred with the report findings in a letter dated October 19, 2009. Based on the results of the survey and background research, BPA made a determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project. The Washington SHPO concurred with this determination on October 20, 2009.

Contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Makary Hutson November 30, 2009

Makary Hutson  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce November 30, 2009

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: November 30, 2009

**Attachments:**

Environmental Provisions  
Environmental Clearance Checklist

**ATTACHMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted, and BPA will consult with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and a BPA Archaeologist.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. No in-stream work. All ground disturbing work, refueling of vehicles and vehicle maintenance should not take place where any spilled material may enter any natural or manmade drainage conveyance including ditches, catch basins and pipes. Drip pans and absorbent pads will be placed under all leaking construction equipment.
4. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and Federal requirements. Immediately notify the KEP Environmental Lead in the event of a spill or release to the environment.
5. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not proceed until the KEP Environmental Lead for this project can evaluate those changes.

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Port Angeles-Sappho #1 Line Tap

**Budget Number:** Work Order 00004866 and Task 04

**This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:**

Environmental Resources	X	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources BPA determined the project would have no effect on historic properties or cultural resources based on a review of the line's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and a field survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE).	X	
2. T & E Species or their habitat(s) BPA determined that the proposed project, as designed, would not impact ESA-listed species or EFH. Therefore, a no effect determination was made for federally listed, threatened and endangered species.	X	
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect to floodplains or wetlands.	X	
4. Areas of special designation No areas of special designation are present within the proposed project.	X	
5. Health & safety	X	
6. Prime agricultural lands	X	
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	Yes	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X	

**Note: Supporting documentation is in the official project file.**

Signed: /s/ Makary Hutson

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