

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: James Hall  
Project Manager - TPC-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Transfer of Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s Mint Farm Energy Center, LLC from Bonneville Power Administration's Balancing Authority Area into Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s Balancing Authority Area

**Budget Information:** Work Order 00004866, Task Number 01

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** **B4.1** Establishment and implementation of contracts, marketing plans, policies, allocation plans, or acquisition of excess electric power that does not involve: (1) the integration of a new generation resource, (2) physical changes in the transmission system beyond the previously developed facility area, unless the changes are themselves categorically excluded, or (3) changes in the normal operating limits of generation resources. **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, transformer, and crossarms.

**Location:** Dittmer Control Center, Vancouver, WA; Munro Control Center, Spokane, WA; Mint Farm Energy Center, Longview, WA

**Proposed by:** Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE) made the Balance Authority Area change request of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** PSE has requested that BPA transfer PSE's Mint Farm Energy Center, LLC (Mint Farm) generation plant from BPA's Balancing Authority Area (BAA) into PSE's BAA by establishing a new metering/telemetry interchange. This new interchange will include additions and modifications to BPA's Dittmer and Munro control centers, and PSE's Mint Farm Energy Center generation plant that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area. To facilitate the transfer of the BAA BPA will enable a new control area interchange with PSE, modify existing digital data transfers, perform software and procedural changes at Dittmer and Munro, retire and/or remove equipment at Mint Farm, and adjust technical equipment as necessary.

A Reimbursable Agreement (Agreement) will be established and implemented to provide for work required to facilitate the transfer of the BAA. The Agreement includes a Financial Terms and Conditions statement as well as a Division of Responsibility statement for work

performed by BPA at PSE's expense. Entering into this Agreement does not involve: (1) the integration of a new generation resource, (2) physical changes in the transmission system beyond the previously developed facility area, or (3) changes in the normal operating limits of generation 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 (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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusions referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Sandra Ackley  
Sandra Ackley  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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