

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 17, 2009

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Tyler Ashburn
Project Manager - TPP-3

Proposed Action: Ross-Lexington No. 1 Meter Project

Budget Information: Work Order # 00220904 Task 1

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments, such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools;

Location: Vancouver, Clark County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install meters under the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line, between towers 1/5 and 1/6, to better understand and predict line sag. BPA proposes to install four meters underneath the lowest point of the transmission line conductors to determine improved ways of predicting sag. Installation of the meters will require three holes approximately one foot in diameter and six feet deep. They will be located at the low point of the span one approximately under each conductor. There will be one additional hole, one foot deep and two feet by three feet in area, that will ideally be underneath the middle conductor and 30 feet from the other holes. The action would occur within the right-of-way.

The project location does not support habitat for federally listed species; therefore there will be no effect to threatened or endangered species. In addition, a cultural resource survey was completed pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. On November 24, 2009, the Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties would be affected.

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 Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Michael S. Mayer

Michael S. Mayer

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

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