

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 3, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James L. Hall
Project Manager – TPC-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Baseload Energy Inc. Brasada-Harney 115-kV Transmission Line Project

Budget Information: 00221791

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

B4.6 – Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within previously developed areas.

Location: Deschutes County, Oregon, T22S, R31E, Sec 10

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed project is a result of an interconnection request that was made by Baseload Energy, Inc., to interconnect onto the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. This interconnection request would accommodate a High Altitude Wind Generation Turbine that would generate up to 8 megawatts of harvested wind power. This proposed project would require a tap onto the Brasada-Harney 115-kV transmission line that runs adjacent to the area where the proposed project would be constructed. The tap would be located approximately 55 miles northwest of the Harney Substation and would require the construction of disconnect switches and interrupting attachments for maintenance control. Lastly, existing access roads may also need to be improved along the transmission right of way.

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.

Based on the provisions identified in 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/ Andrew Montaña

Andrew M. Montaña
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: February 4, 2010

Attachment:
Provisions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural resources:

1. Archeological monitor will be present during ground disturbing activities to ensure that nearby site will not be affected.
2. Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. A qualified archaeologist should immediately be notified and an evaluation made and a treatment plan developed should the find be significant.

Vegetation protection and noxious weeds:

3. Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews would be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated areas and existing roads as much as possible.
4. Designated areas would be used to store equipment and supplies. The contractor would follow applicable state and federal regulations to protect plant communities.
5. After construction, disturbed areas not needed for ongoing access or maintenance should be promptly reseeded with native species where possible.
6. Seed mix for revegetation should contain a mixture of the common native bunchgrasses and dryland species present in the Project area. Native seed is commercially available for this area.
7. Do not spread noxious weed seeds:
 - Certify in writing that all vehicles, equipment, and machinery are free of all weeds including seeds before moving the equipment into the construction area. The COTR will inspect vehicles prior to bringing them on site.
 - When an area contaminated by weeds is encountered on, or off of, the construction site, use caution to prevent the spreading of weeds to other areas. This may include cleaning the equipment with high-pressure water prior to moving from one work site to another, or installing wheel washes. Notify the COTR as to the location of the noxious weeds.
8. Use only weed-free materials, or inert materials for mulching and for erosion control.

Erosion control and land use:

9. Require dust abatement on road and construction site, if necessary.
10. Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized for the protection of water resources.
11. Provide a schedule of construction activities to all landowners/agencies along the corridor that could be affected by construction.
12. Plan and schedule construction activities, when practical, to minimize temporary disturbance, displacement of crops, and interference with farming activities.
13. Keep gates in as found condition (opened or closed). Coordinate construction sequence with landowner so that livestock may be moved if necessary.

Public Health and Safety:

14. Limit construction to daytime hours for noise abatement.
15. No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
16. Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. Contaminated media include materials that are potentially harmful to the environment or human health and safety. Work will proceed only after measures approved by the WDOE are put in place to prevent the spread of contaminated materials and protect the health and safety of workers.
17. Equip vehicles with fire suppression equipment, including a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bladder or water supply.
18. Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.