

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 2, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Gregory Vassallo
Project Manager - TPC-ALVEY

Proposed Action: Gardiner-Reedsport Substation Interconnection

Budget Information: WO# 00004866, Task 03

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: Douglas County, Oregon (Township 21 North, Range 12 West, Sections 4, 13, 15)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Central Lincoln Public Utility District (CLPUD)

Description of the Proposed Action:

CLPUD is installing a new 115-kV line as a backup power source for its Reedsport Substation. In order to accommodate this request, BPA proposes to modify infrastructure within its existing Gardiner, Tahkenitch, and Reedsport substations.

Reedsport Substation

Install a new 115-kV breaker with revenue metering-quality current transformers (CTc) and one 1600A disconnect switch.

Tahkenitch Substation

BPA plans to replace existing relays with new distance impedance relays with load encroachment to allow for coordination of line protection and tapped bank protection at Gardiner Substation.

Gardiner Substation

Install a 90-kV surge arrester, 115-kV metering potential transformers, CTs for metering and associated structures. BPA plans to retire and remove three single-phase transformers in order to free space for CLPUD’s new 115-kV line termination pole located within CLPUDs adjacent substation fence. BPA will provide the conductor from CLPUD’s line to its available transformer.

All ground work will occur within the existing the BPA substation fence and at current pad depth.

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.

As part of the proposed action, BPA would conduct work within the existing disturbed area at Gardiner, Tahkenitch, and Reedsport substation; there is no vegetation or suitable habitat for threatened or endangered species.

BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (ORSHPO) on August 6, 2009. At ORSHPO's request, a field survey was conducted at the Gardiner Substation on December 22, 2009. BPA concluded that the proposed undertaking would have no effect on historic properties. The ORSHPO concurred with these findings on January 21, 2010.

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/ Claire Bingman

Claire Bingaman KEC-4
Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: February 4, 2010

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Gardiner-Reedsport Substation Interconnection

Budget Number: WO# 00004866, Task 03

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

Environmental Resources	No	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	x	
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	x	
3. Floodplains or wetlands	x	
4. Areas of special designation	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	x	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	x	

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

Date: February 4, 2010