

# memorandum

DATE: June 3, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Victor Hitchens  
Project Manager – TPC-BELL-1

**Proposed Action:** Vera Tap to Trentwood Valley Way #1 Project

**Budget Information:** Work order 251700, Task 03

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6  
Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within previously developed area. B4.13 Reconstruction and minor relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less.

**Location:** Trentwood, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

BPA proposes to add a disconnect switch and 2 wood poles between two existing pole structures on its Vera Tap to Trentwood Valley Way No. 1, 115-kV transmission line in eastern Washington. The project will improve system reliability for its customer, Vera Water and Power, by allowing better sectionalizing of the transmission line for maintenance.

All the actions for this project will occur within BPA's existing easements in previously disturbed areas. Proposed activities include installing a disconnect switch that sits on a steel 4-post rack. The switch stand is approximately 10 feet by 5 feet and post structures will be placed 10 feet in the ground. Also, two 70-foot wood poles will be installed near the disconnect switch. The wood poles will be placed 10 feet in the ground and are 3 feet in diameter. Excavation will be done with a backhoe or auger. The soil removed by the backhoe or auger will be spread around the structures. The new poles will be placed into the holes and material will be backfilled around them. Each pole will have 2 guy wires that will be anchored 5 to 6 feet in the ground and set in crushed rock.

No new access roads will be needed for this project.

**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 Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) site and project files indicated multiple previously recorded sites present within one mile of the project area; however no previously recorded sites are present within the project area of potential effect (APE). During a survey for the proposed project, two historic isolates were found. BPA determined that, due to the limited material found within the APE and limited impact of the project, the project will have no adverse effect on historic properties. The SHPO concurred with this determination.

BPA has determined that there will be no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. The Spokane River is located just south of the project site. However, proposed work for this project will be conducted from existing access road within the right-of-way and will not impact wetlands or the river corridor.

Based on the provisions and conditions identified in the attachment, 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/ Jennifer Stolz

Jennifer Stolz

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

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Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist

**ATTACHMENT**  
**PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. If additional archaeological material is encountered during the construction of the project, an archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.
2. No in-stream work. Fueling 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 absorbents pads will be placed under all leading construction equipment.

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Vera Tap

**Budget Number:** (Work Order #, Task #) 251700, Task 03

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

| <b>Environmental Resources</b>                                  | <b>No</b> |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Cultural Resources   | X         |
| WA SHPO concurrence with BPA determination of No Adverse Effect |           |
| 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         |

**Note: Supporting documentation is in the Project file.**

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Stolz

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