

memorandum

DATE: June 21, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Heredia
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Maintenance of and improvements to the access roads from structure 53/3 through 66/3 of the Fairview-Rogue No. 1 transmission line corridor

PP&A Project No.: 984

Budget Information: 220499

Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3, Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights of way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment... routine maintenance activities, corrective....are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

Location: Multiple locations in Curry County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform road maintenance activities along the access roads of the southern 13 miles of the Fairview-Rogue transmission line from Structure 53/3 to Structure 66/3. There are roughly 32 miles of access roads in this section of transmission line. The proposed access road project is part of ongoing operations and maintenance along this line and this work is proposed for 2010 and 2011. This road improvement project is separate from the proposed BPA Bandon-Rogue Transmission Line Rebuild Project, which is currently in the planning stages.

The area of potential effect would extend no more than 15 feet beyond either side of the existing road surface. Project work would include, but is not limited to: approximately 12 miles of road reconstruction, approximately 11 miles of minor road improvements, approximately three new culvert installations, approximately 23 culvert replacements, two bridge installations, and the installation or replacement of several drain dips and cross-drain culverts. All roads are existing roads and no new roads would be constructed as part of 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, April 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 action with

potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impact [40 C.F.R. 1508(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 release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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

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Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Maintenance and improvements to the access roads from structure 53/3 through 66/3 of the Fairview-Rogue No. 1 transmission line corridor

Work Order #: 220499

PP&A Project No.: 984

Prepared by: Oden Jahn

Routing: KEPR-4

Date: 6/21/10

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

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One site was discovered in the transmission line corridor; however, no work is currently proposed in this area. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work may not begin on project activities that may affect T&E species until the consultation process with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS has concluded. Work may begin on project activities where BPA has determined the timing, location or impact would have no effect on T & E species or their habitats. All additional conditions required by NOAA Fisheries or USFWS will be implemented. 		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work may not begin on any component of this project that would impact wetlands and/or waters of the US until a Section 404 permit has been issued. If necessary, compensatory mitigation credits must be arranged and purchased prior to the commencement of work in the area. 		
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>