



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Program or Field Office: TRIBAL ENERGY PROGRAM AK
Project Title AK-TEP-KOOTZNOOWOO HYDRO PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
Location: Tribal KOOTZNOOWOO HYDRO

Proposed Action or Project Description

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

The Thayer Lake Hydropower Development (TLHD) proposed project consists of a 1 MW+ run-of-river hydropower project located in the Tongass Forest in the Admiralty Island National Monument Park. The project area is located approximately 50 air miles south of Juneau. The hydroelectric plant would be a run-of-river facility using only the water available in the natural flow of the river. Under normal conditions, run-of-river facilities involve minimal water storage, and power generation fluctuates with the stream flow. The proposed facility would create a 10-20 acre pond behind a small dam. The hydroelectric facility would serve the community of Angoon, as directed in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. The development has the potential of eliminating the need for diesel and fossil fuels for home heating and electric needs. In 2003, Kootznoowoo, Inc., the village corporation for the Angoon Community Association, asked the Forest Service to begin the NEPA process necessary to develop a hydroelectric facility. In 2004, Kootznoowoo submitted an application requesting Forest Service authorization for the project. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prepared and issued an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project on February 20, 2009. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the project (R10-MB-635) was issued May 2009 by the Forest Service, USDA. The application for funding to support pre-construction activities recognizes the ROD and commits to base project activities on the conditions as outlined in the ROD. The scope of the activities for which funding is proposed has been reviewed for NEPA, and the proposed activities (pre-construction activities up to and including final design of the TLHD project) are adequately bound by the USDA EIS.

Conditions: None

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: A9, A11, B3.1, EIS
for Angoon
Hydroelectric Project,
ROD R10-MB-635

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR 10.21

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

ORO NEPA Compliance Officer **Gary S. Hartman** Date Determined: 7/20/2010

Comments:

Webmaster:

Record ID: 3



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