

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Eric Orth
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Rebuild a 19 mile section of the Chehalis-Raymond No. 1, 115-kV transmission line from Chehalis Substation to Pe Ell Substation

Budget Information: Work Order #248941

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 effect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including but not limited to....tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles ...conductors...and crossarms.

Location: The project is located in Lewis County, Washington along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Chehalis-Raymond 115-kV transmission line corridor between the towns of Napavine to the east and Pe Ell to the west.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to rebuild the first 19 miles of the Chehalis-Raymond No. 1, 115-kV transmission line from Chehalis Substation to Pe Ell Substation. The subject transmission line has reached its designed service age and needs to be replaced to insure system reliability and the safe operation. The proposed project includes replacement of all wood pole support structures, electrical conductor, support guys, and associated hardware. Additionally, some minor road maintenance will be completed to gain access to structures where road conditions have deteriorated.

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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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.

Five sites with potential for cultural resources were identified during a survey conducted prior to project initiation. No construction activities will occur at the structures near the sites until concurrence of the no effect findings has been received from the WA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the involved tribes, or until after the comment period has passed. Additionally, BPA will provide a "Professional monitoring plan" to be implemented by a third party professional cultural resource

company to monitor all ground disturbing activities at or near the identified sites. Based on the preceding, BPA has determined the project will have “No Effect” on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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.

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 un-permitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

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/ Greg Tippetts

Greg Tippetts

Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 19, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chehalis-Raymond No. 115-kV transmission line rebuild project 2010

Work Order #: 00248941

PP&A Project No.: NA

Prepared by: Greg Tippetts

Routing: KEPR-4

Date: 7/13/10

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

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cultural resource contractor must be employed to monitor all ground disturbing work at or near structures 1/1, 1/8, 2/3, 3/2 and from structures 10/12 to 11/1. No construction activities will occur at the structure sites listed until after August 16th. This timing restriction allows the agencies and tribes the appropriate time, 30 calendar days, to comment on the findings in the cultural survey report. In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sources of pollution including contaminated areas encountered during the construction project will be properly characterized and managed. 		
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

- NA