

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: December 13, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Emmanuel Jaramillo  
Project Manager - TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** De Moss-Fossil 115-kV Line Upgrade

**Budget Information:** 00220054

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):**

B4.6 – Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area...

**Location:**

De Moss Substation is located in Section 3, Township 1 South, Range 17 East, Wasco County, Oregon.

The Fossil Substation is located in Section 33, Township 6 South, Range 21 East, Wasco County, Oregon.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

De Moss Substation: Work at the De Moss Substation would entail expanding the existing substation yard to accommodate a new 4-terminal ring bus. Excavation within an area approximately 160-ft by 242-ft adjacent to the existing control house would be required to construct foundations. The project would also entail the construction of approximately 200 feet of new 115-kV transmission line between the De Moss Substation and the nearby Gordon Hollow Tap. The construction of the new transmission line would entail the construction of two new wood pole structures, which would entail auguring a 2-ft diameter hole approximately 15-20-ft deep. Geotechnical studies are necessary to provide accurate site subsurface soil characteristics so that the expanded control house is designed to current standards. A backhoe would be used to excavate three 17-ft deep test pits measuring approximately 5-ft by 10-ft within areas disturbed during existing substation construction. All test pit excavations will be refilled and surfaces restored to original condition.

Fossil Substation: Proposed work at the Fossil Substation would entail adding one new 115/69-kV breaker and associated switches, and expanding the existing control house. All work would occur within the existing substation yard. Excavation of an area approximately 118-ft by 50-ft west of the existing control house would be required to install foundation footings. Geotechnical studies are necessary to provide accurate site characteristics so that the expanded

control house is designed to current standards. A backhoe would be used to excavate three 17-ft deep test pits measuring approximately 5-ft by 10-ft within areas disturbed during existing substation construction. All test pits would be refilled and surfaces restored to conditions prior to excavation. No other ground-disturbing work would occur.

**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.

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/ John W. Barco  
John W. Barco  
Senior Policy Analyst

Concur:

/s/ James Kehoe for  
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: De Moss-Fossil 115-kV Line Upgrade

Work Order #: 00220054

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"/>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ John W. Barco

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