

memorandum

DATE: January 6, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amit Sinha
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Ostrander Substation Addition

Budget Information: Work order 00262568

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Construction of electric power substations (including switching stations and support facilities)...or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing substations and support facilities...

Location: Clackamas County, Oregon (T2S, R3E, Sections 26 and 35)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA is proposing to expand its existing Ostrander Substation near Barton, Oregon by approximately 4 acres. The expansion would accommodate three new 230/500-kV transformers, with provisions for a spare transformer. The expansion of the substation is needed to replace aging infrastructure at the nearby McLaughlin Substation. BPA is proposing to replace the transformers at the Ostrander substation and lease the McLaughlin Substation. The proximity of the west side of the Ostrander Substation would allow connection of the new transformers and associated equipment to the existing McLaughlin-Ostrander 500-kV transmission line. The new transformers at Ostrander Substation would step down the voltage between the Ostrander and McLaughlin substations from 500-kV to 230-kV.

BPA would expand a 400 foot segment of the Ostrander Substation yard approximately 375 feet to the west, including extending the perimeter fence, ground mat, and substation rock. Within the expanded electrical yard the project would include three transformers and four concrete footings, high voltage bus work and bus support pedestals, lighting arresters, disconnect switches, substation lightning mast, and an oil spill containment system. A new V-shaped surface water drainage ditch would be excavated along the south side of the expanded yard, approximately 2 feet deep, 375 feet long and up to 20 feet wide. The existing drainage ditch to the east of the project area would be replaced with a new 18 inch culvert. The drainage ditch would be isolated and dewatered prior to installation of the new culvert. Equipment used during construction includes dump trucks, bulldozers, excavators, cement trucks and loaders, cranes, and track hoes. Construction equipment and building materials would be will be staged either within the expansion area or within the existing substation yard.

Approximately half of the project area is located in an existing, cleared right-of-way, directly beneath BPA's McLaughlin-Ostrander transmission line. The remaining project area is forested; trees and brush in the area of the proposed yard and within a 50 foot buffer of the new perimeter fence would be cleared. Approximately 2.3 acres of forest would be manually cut and trees removed. The top 6 inches of organic soil would be removed from the entire project area and approximately 12,000 cubic-yards of fill material would be imported to bring the expanded area up to the level of the existing substation grade. Equipment used to cut and clear vegetation includes chainsaws, bulldozers, front end loaders, and dump trucks.

Access to the project area would be from a private road southeast of the substation off Eaton Road and existing BPA right-of-way. The access road is approximately 14 feet wide and 1 mile long. Minor road improvements would be made as needed to protect natural resources and the structural integrity of the road. Road improvements would include light blading, replacement of two culverts, and rocking. All work would occur within the existing road bed and wetlands would be avoided.

Geotechnical investigations are needed at several locations within the project area to characterize subsurface conditions for equipment foundation evaluations. Exploration would occur using a low-impact, track mounted drill rig that would advance an 8-inch diameter hollow-stem auger using water as the circulating medium. Four drill holes would be excavated approximately 25 feet deep. The holes are backfilled in accordance with state regulations.

The project is planned to start May 1, 2011.

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.

BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with Oregon State SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. A pedestrian and subsurface survey of the area of potential effect was conducted on July 13, 2010. No archaeological material was identified. A background literature review found no prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites recorded within one-mile of the proposed project. Based on results of subsurface testing and literature review, BPA made a determination of No Adverse Effect to the

sites. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this determination on September 7, 2010 and both the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde and the Siletz Tribes agreed with BPA's determination.

The project is located in the eastern Willamette Valley in a broad terrace between Foster Creek and the Clackamas River. No major water bodies are present within the project area; however, the area is within jurisdictional wetlands. A wetland and other Waters of the U.S. delineation following the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual was done in the project area on June 22, 2010 and again on November 23, 2010. A total area of 1.294 acres was delineated as wetland and an additional 0.116 acres was delineated Ordinary Waters of the U.S. (OWUS). BPA is proposing to mitigate wetland loss by purchasing credits at the Foster Creek Wetland Bank located adjacent to the Ostrander Substation. The wetland delineation, along with an individual permit will be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the Department of State Lands for review.

Federally-listed species recorded by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service were reviewed for Clackamas County. Nelson's checker mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*) was the only species listed with potential habitat within the project area. A plant survey was conducted in the project area on June 28, 2010 during the plant's known bloom time. No checker mallow was found. Habitat for the plant was considered of poor quality. It was determined that the proposed project would have no effect upon the species or critical habitat listed in the project area.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Jennifer Stolz

Jennifer Stolz

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: January 6, 2011

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. If archaeological material is encountered during the construction of the project, an Inadvertent Discovery Form will be completed, an archaeologist will immediately be notified and work will be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase. Sediment fencing will be placed around the perimeter of the project to prevent sediment migration off-site. Other BMPs used to control erosion and sediment may include straw wattles, bales, silt curtains, and temporary matting.
3. 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 leaking construction equipment.
4. BPA, being a federal agency, holds and maintains an agency National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Storm Water 1200-CA Permit from DEQ (File No. 111769; EPA No. ORR10-4145). BPA has been instructed by ODEQ to comply with the Federal General Construction permit (January 8, 2009) until the state revises the 1200-CA permit. BPA will prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) involving the installation of appropriate BMPs, monitoring of any discharges, hazardous materials management, and site restoration.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Ostrander Substation Expansion

Work Order #: 00262568

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 1.294 acres of wetland and 0.116 acres of ordinary waters of the U.S. will be impacted as a result of this project. An individual permit is being submitted to the ACOE and Department of State Lands. Mitigation for wetland loss is being proposed at the Foster Creek Wetland Bank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: Jennifer Stolz

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