

memorandum

DATE: January 5, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Debbie Ruckwardt
Electrical Engineer – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Installing fiber optic cables between Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Ashe Substation and Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station (CGS).

Budget Information: Work Order # 00261540

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1864

Categorical Exclusion 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: The project takes place between BPA's Ashe Substation and Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station located in Benton County, WA, in BPA's Tri Cities District. The Ashe Substation portion of the project is located in Section 32 of Township 12 North, Range 28 East and the CGS portion is located in Section 5 of Township 11 North, Range 28 East.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: About 200 feet of fiber optic cables will be installed on the structures of the current BPA WNP-2-1 500-kV transmission line. One new wood pole will be installed within the CGS administrative area. The new pole location is in a heavily disturbed area. Auguring or digging would be planned to place the new pole. If the hole is excavated by a backhoe, disturbance would be confined to a 15 foot by 15 foot area. Guy wires will also be installed on the new wood pole, as well as on an existing wood pole in the Ashe Substation yard. All guy wires will have screw-in type anchors that do not require excavation. The work will provide system reliability.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) 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. 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Shawn Barndt

Environmental Scientist – KEPR-Pasco

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: January 5, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Installing fiber optic cables between Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Ashe Substation and Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station (CGS)

Work Order #: 00261540 **PP&A Project No.:** 1864

Prepared by: Shawn Barndt **Routing:** KEPR **Date:** 12-17-10

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"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Work per APM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations DOE Dig Permit acquired	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities No issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>