

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

Memorandum

DATE: February 15, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Emmanuel Jaramillo
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Harrisburg Substation Expansion Project

Budget Information: Work Order 230941 Task 03

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) with power delivery at 230-kV or below, or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing substations and support facilities, that could involve the construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, or relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less, but not the integration of major new generation resources into a main transmission system

Location: Linn County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to expand its Harrisburg Substation to place new substation equipment. The project would either involve expanding the existing substation to the east or building a slightly larger substation approximately 200 feet south across Substation Drive. If the substation is expanded to the east, approximately 1.2 acres of land would be needed. If it is expanded to the south, approximately 1.5 acres of land would be needed. At either site, a gravel pad would be placed to provide firm footings for the substation equipment, and a fence would be installed around the perimeter. Substation equipment would be placed within the fenced area. A new transmission line tap structure would be built on the Albany-Eugene line approximately 200 feet to the west.

The substation expansion project is proposed to begin in summer 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.

Archeological surveys were conducted by BPA in the project area on July 30, 2010. No archeological resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and none were previously documented within one mile of the APE. Therefore, BPA is making a determination of *no historic properties adversely affected*. BPA sent letters and a copy of the cultural resources report stating the finding to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and to the Grande Ronde, Siletz, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua, and the Warm Springs tribes on August 5, 2010. The SHPO concurred with the findings on August 17, 2010. The tribes did not respond. If any archeological materials are found, work will be immediately halted, and BPA archeologists, the SHPO and affected tribes will be contacted.

No Endangered Species Act listed species or their habitat are identified within the project area, thus there will be no effect to any listed species.

The site is currently under cultivation, but investigations revealed it to be converted wetland. The area was delineated and a fill/removal permit application sent to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon Division of State Lands. The project will disturb approximately 1.478 acres of converted wetland. Impacts will be mitigated by the purchase of wetland mitigation bank credits. Because the wetland has already been converted to agricultural use and with the purchase of the mitigation bank credits, the project will not adversely affect wetlands.

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. Environmental provisions to be adhered to for the project are attached.

/s/ Douglas F. Corkran
Douglas F. Corkran
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 15, 2011

Attachments:
Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following environmental provisions:

- If archaeological material is encountered during the construction of the project, the BPA archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.
- All standard erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices will be used for any ground disturbance, new road work, and road maintenance.
- All terms and conditions in the wetland permits from Army Corps of Engineers and Oregon Department of State Lands will be adhered to at all times.
- 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.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Harrisburg Substation Expansion Project

Project #: (Work Order #, Task#) 230941 Task 03

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 Mitigation bank credits will be purchased to mitigate disturbance to the converted wetland.	<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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran

Date: February 15, 2011