

memorandum

DATE: March 25, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mark Kjelland
Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-2

Proposed Action: McNary-Ross No. 1 Structure 162/4 Relocation and Insulator Replacement Project

PP&A Project No.: 1876

Categorical Exclusions 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. Routine maintenance may result in replacement to the extent that replacement is in kind and is not a substantial upgrade or improvement.

Location: The structure relocation project is located approximately 4.8 miles north of Camas, in Clark County, Washington, T2N, R3E, Sec 13 and T2N, R4E, Sec 18.

The insulator replacements are located as follows:

- Structures 15/3, 15/4, 15/5, 16/1 and 16/2 are located in Benton County, Washington, T5N, R26E, Sec 5.
- Structure 30/1 is located in Benton County, Washington, T5N, R24E, Sec 31.
- Structures 31/1 and 31/2 are located in Klickitat County, Washington, T4N, R23E, Sec 1.
- Structures 36/2 and 36/3 are located in Klickitat County, Washington, T4N, R23E, Sec 18.
- Structures 93/4, 94/1 and 94/2 are located in Klickitat County, Washington, T2N, R14E, Sec 9.
- Structures 173/6 and 174/1 are located in Clark County, Washington, T2N, R2E, Sec 7.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In order to increase the ground-to-conductor clearance of the 345-kV McNary-Ross No. 1 transmission line, BPA proposes to relocate structure 162/4 to a new location that is 75 feet ahead-on-line (west) of the center of the existing structure, and replace the insulator hardware that suspends the conductor on 15 structures.

For the structure relocation, four excavations, up to 16 ft x 16 ft x 16 ft each, would be necessary to install new grillage footings and leg extensions. Excavated material would be stockpiled adjacent to the site and later used for backfill; however, some imported fill may be used to provide a stable bed for the grillage footings. Once the new footings and leg extensions are in place, the existing tower body would be removed from its current location and fitted to the new leg extensions. The old grillage footings would be cut off roughly three feet below the ground surface. Some additional ground disturbing activities may occur in the vicinity of the new and existing sites to provide a suitable platform on which transmission line equipment would be positioned. Some minor access road work may also be required on existing roads beginning at NE 292nd Avenue and ending in the

vicinity of the new tower location. Following construction, all areas would be contoured to blend with the topography of the site, stabilized for erosion and sediment control, and seeded with an appropriate seed mix.

For the insulator replacements, work crews would use conventional transmission line equipment to replace the insulators that suspend the conductor from the structure. The structures would be accessed using existing access roads and no ground disturbing activities are anticipated.

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, April 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 action with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impact [40 C.F.R. 1508(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 release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. 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, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 25, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 345-kV McNary-Ross No. 1 Structure 162/4 Relocation and Insulator Replacement Project

Work Order #: 232278 **PP&A Project No.:** 1876

Prepared by: Oden Jahn **Routing:** KEPR-4 **Date:** 3/22/11

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 SHPO concurrence letter was received on 3/1/2011 Please see the attached Inadvertent Discovery Language provided by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Supporting documentation is in the Project file.