

memorandum

DATE: May 5, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Roger Thomas
Project Manager – TECT-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Anaconda Substation 3G Radio Upgrades

Budget Information: Work Order # 00197234, Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 “Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities...”

Location: Deer Lodge County, Montana (Township 4 North, Range 10 West, Section 17)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install a new monopole radio tower and associated communication upgrades at the existing BPA Anaconda Substation in Deer Lodge County, Montana. The monopole tower would be about 30 feet tall and would be installed within the gravel substation yard, adjacent to the substation control house. BPA would install antenna systems on the tower, and route communications lines from the tower into the existing substation control house where they would connect into a communication rack. Any additional communications equipment work related to this project would occur within existing BPA facilities. All ground disturbing activities would occur within the graveled electrical yard on BPA fee-owned property, which can be easily accessed via maintained roads.

BPA must vacate radio frequencies in the 1710-1755 MHz band to comply with a Federal law mandating reallocation of frequencies to be used for advanced wireless networks. The proposed work is required to transition the affected telecommunications systems onto new digital microwave radio frequencies or onto fiber optic infrastructure, and to ensure communications reliability by replacing outdated facilities. The radio equipment would be part of a radio hop linking several existing radio sites within the power systems control communications network for the BPA transmission system. The proposed work is scheduled for 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.

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/ Makary A. Hutson
Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: May 6, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Anaconda Substation 3G Radio Upgrades

Work Order #: 00197234, 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 MT SHPO concurrence on determination of No Historic Properties Affected received on April 7, 2011.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species or their habitats are present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands will be impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation There are not any areas of special designation present in the project vicinity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety There are no known health and safety concerns from the proposed project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands The project will not have an impact on prime agricultural lands.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water There are not any special sources of water present in the project area.	<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 PAC will be prepared for excavation work, if necessary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other – Visual impacts The project will not impact areas of great visual value. The monopole is 30' tall and located in a substation surrounded by similar transmission infrastructure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Supporting documentation is in the official project file.

Signed: /s/ Makary Hutson

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