

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 5, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darin Bowman
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road repair including reconstructing, grading, and shaping of roads, placing and compacting of rock surfacing, installation of gates, installation and maintenance of erosion control and water drainage features, and restoration of disturbed areas.

Budget Information: Work Order # 00263533

PP&A Project No.: 1977

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities... for...rights-of-way, infrastructures (e.g. roads)...routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain and preserve infrastructures...in a condition suitable for the facility to be used for its designed purpose.

Location: The project area is confined to the existing access road located around the right-of-way (ROW) corridor of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Rocky Reach-Maple Valley 345-kV transmission line between structures 106 and 113. The proposed project, located in King County, Washington, is within BPA's Covington District.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to build and/or repair approximately 18,000 feet of access road and ROW road that provides access to the Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 transmission line in King County, Washington. The work is necessary to repair damage done to access roads caused by a major flood event that occurred on November 7, 2006, and thus provide continued system stability. The project includes but is not limited to:

- Reconstruction (blading, reshaping, grading, and compacting) of existing road surfaces
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of aggregate and rip-rap
- Constructing or reconditioning of water drainage features to include culvert replacements
- Placing Geotextile Fabric
- Installation of gates.

All proposed work will occur within the existing road prism and should not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbed. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, wetlands, etc.

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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, 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 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.

BPA has determined the project will have "No Effect" on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. 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.

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:
Chad Browning
Environmental Scientist

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

Date: May 5, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No.1 Access Road Repair Project

Work Order #: 00263533 PP&A Project No.: 1977

Prepared by: Chad Browning Routing: KEPR-4 Date: 5/4/11

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should a spotted owl nest site be identified, BPA would follow timing recommendations for nesting owls, which restricts activity to greater than 120 yards from nesting spotted owls or designated CH between July 16th and September 30th 		
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.