

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 22, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Elizabeth Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV-THE DALLES

Proposed Action: Indian Cabin Road Repair

PP&A Project No.: 1908

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 designated purpose.

Location: The project is located in Skamania County, Washington, T3N, R8E, Sections 27 and 28.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to repair the damage caused by a slope failure on Indian Cabin Road. The damage to the road prevents access to approximately two miles of significant Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) right-of-way (ROW) corridor containing BPA's 500-kV Wautoma-Ostrander and 45-kV McNary-Ross transmission lines.

BPA proposes to remove soil and debris from the lower road, onto which Indian Cabin Road slumped, and construct an engineered solution to stabilize the slope and re-establish the ability of Indian Cabin Road to accommodate vehicles and equipment. An engineered solution has been prepared that would not extend beyond the area of the slope failure, and would not change the width of the road. In order to perform the repair, a small number of young trees (<12" dbh) would be removed, and any seeps contributing to the excess moisture present on this slope would be managed. Following construction, all disturbed areas would be stabilized for erosion and sediment control, and seeded with an appropriate seed mix.

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-Steven 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: June 22, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Indian Cabin Road Repair

Work Order #: 00113526

PP&A Project No.: 1908

Prepared by: Oden Jahn

Routing: KEPR-4

Date: 6/13/11

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 On May 2, 2011, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected". BPA received no response from the tribes. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and an environmental representative should be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Known populations of gray wolf, Canada lynx, bull trout, northern spotted owl and grizzly bear do not occur near the project area. Further, the project area does not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species and there would be no removal or alteration of potential or critical habitat. Coho, Chinook, and steelhead are known to inhabit the Wind River, which is adjacent to the project area. The proposed project does not involve any in-water work. Further, measures will be implemented to prevent any sediment or contamination from entering the Wind River. It was determined that this project would have "No Effect" to T&E Species, or their habitat(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 A Gorge Permit must be obtained prior to the commencement of project activities. All terms and conditions must be followed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other No fill, discharge, or disturbance is permitted within the ordinary high water mark of the Wind River. The Wind River must be adequately protected from water quality impacts that may originate from the project area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>