

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 21, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Rick Ross
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road maintenance on or leading to the Cardwell-Cowlitz No.1, 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

Budget Information: Work Order #00281014

PP&A Project No.: 2020

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 designated purpose.

Location: The project area consists of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) access roads located on or leading to the Cardwell-Cowlitz No. 1, 115-kV transmission line right-of-way. The project area is located in Cowlitz County, Washington and begins at Cardwell Substation near the town of Carrols, Washington and ends at Cowlitz Substation located in Longview, Washington.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance and reconstruction activities along existing access roads, both on and off the right-of-way. The work involves approximately 4.7 miles of road reconstruction or improvement work on or leading to the Cardwell-Cowlitz No. 1, 115-kV transmission line right-of-way between Cardwell Substation and structure 7/8. The roadwork is needed to improve access for crews that will be replacing the transmission line support structures within the transmission line corridor. The work will consist primarily of blading and shaping of access roads, construction or maintenance of drainage structures or features, and placement and compaction of crushed aggregate on designated sections of access roads. The project includes but is not limited to:

- Reshaping, grading and compacting existing road surfaces and turnouts
- Placing Geotextile Fabric
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock.
- Constructing or reconditioning of water bars, drain dips and outlet ditches
- Cleaning cross drain culverts and ditches

All proposed work will occur within the existing road prism and will not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbed. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, wetlands, etc. Two sections of pre-existing access road requiring re-construction occur in areas that would be considered wetland. The sections include a small portion of the access road leading to structure 5/1 with approximately 310' (0.07 acres) of disturbance and a small stretch from the Dike Rd. access leading to structure 7/1 with approximately 107' (0.02 acre) of disturbance. The total proposed wetland disturbance is 0.09 acres for the project. The total disturbance is less than 1/10 an acre and involves reconstruction of existing access roads. This work is authorized under US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit # 12, "Utility Line Activities"; (Access roads), as described in the USCOE Seattle District "Special Public Notice" effective, 10 September, 2007.

Findings: The 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.

No cultural artifact or historic properties were identified during an intensive survey of the project area and literature review by a third party Archaeological Firm. Based on this, BPA has determined the project will have "No Effect" on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or other sensitive areas are known to exist within the project area. Based on this, 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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Greg Tippetts

Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 21, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Cardwell-Cowlitz, No.1 Access Road Reconstruction Project (Capital)

Work Order #: 00281014 **PP&A Project No.:** 2020

Prepared by: Greg Tippetts **Routing:** KEPR **Date:** 7/13/11

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 Survey completed 7/8/2011. No resources found. 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.	<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 Locations leading to structure 5/1 and structure 7/1: stay within existing road prism and keep disturbance to the minimum required for safe access. Total disturbance must remain under 1/10 acre.	<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"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
ESA Effects Determination