

memorandum

DATE: July 15, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Harold Grappe – TELP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Cascade Networks, Inc. LURR at Allston Substation

Budget Information: Work Order # 00275035 Task 03

Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021: B1.7 “Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.”

B4.7 “Adding fiber optic cable to transmission structures...”

Location: Section 10, Township 7 North, Range 3 West of the Delena Quadrangle located in Columbia County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to grant Cascade Networks, Inc. permission to install fiber conduit within BPA fee-owned land adjacent to Allston Substation located in Columbia County, Oregon. Currently, independent fiber optic cables approach BPA’s Allston Substation from two directions. From the east, fiber cable from BPA’s Longview Substation located in Longview, Washington terminates at a customer vault (CV) located adjacent to Allston Substation’s access road. Fiber also extends west along Heath Road within an underground conduit, but terminates within an agricultural field approximately 700 feet north of Allston Substation and the existing CV. Cascade Networks, Inc., a high speed internet and data solutions service provider, submitted a Land Use Review Request (LURR) to BPA to connect these two independent fiber cables. Cascade Networks, Inc. proposes to directionally bore between the two termination points and install an underground conduit to house the new fiber cable segment. In turn, Cascade Networks, Inc. could provide broadband data services to the greater Cowlitz County, Washington area.

In order to install the new conduit, up to two directional boring set-ups may be required. The primary directional boring set-up would require up to a 40 by 40 foot staging area within the agricultural field for equipment operation. The staging area would be centered on the current termination point of the west bound fiber conduit. In order to connect the existing and new underground conduits, excavation up to 4 feet deep would be required at the point of intersection. If necessary, a secondary directional boring set-up would be centered on the existing CV and would also require up to a 40 by 40 foot staging area. Backhoe excavation up to 4 feet deep would be required on the north side of the CV to intersect the new conduit into the CV. Lastly, a new BPA-owned vault (BV) would be placed over the existing conduit approximately 20 feet south of Heath Road. Within a 6 by 6 foot area, backhoe excavation up to 4 feet deep would occur to install the BV. The backhoe staging area could impact up to a 10 by 20 foot area immediately south of Heath Road.

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.

Based on a site survey and a detailed cultural resource report produced by a BPA in-house archaeologist covering the proposed area of potential effect, it was determined that no adverse effects to cultural resources would occur by this project. The cultural resource report and a summary letter were sent on June 10, 2011 to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. A concurrence letter dated June 20, 2011 was received from the SHPO regarding this cultural resource report. No response was received from the tribes.

The project area is absent of unique wildlife habitat, water features, or other environmentally sensitive resources. Because of the previous disturbance and lack of habitat, no ESA species listed or proposed for listing are likely to be present. There would also be no effect to floodplains or wetlands. It was therefore determined that no adverse environmental effects would occur from construction of the project.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment below this proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusions referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Michael B. Henjum

Michael B. Henjum
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 15, 2011

Attachments

Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Provisions

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural resources:

1. Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:
 - Stop work and immediately notify the COTR or site manager and a qualified archaeologist. In addition, all concerned Tribes and appropriate federal, state, and local agencies should be notified.
 - Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
 - Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.
 - Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site.

Vegetation protection and noxious weeds:

2. Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews will be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated areas and existing roads as much as possible.
3. Designated areas will be used to store equipment and supplies. The contractor will follow applicable state and federal regulations to protect plant communities.
4. After construction, disturbed areas not needed for ongoing access or maintenance will be promptly reseeded with native species where possible.
5. Seed mix for revegetation will contain a mixture of the common native bunchgrasses and dryland species present in the project area.
6. Do not spread noxious weed seeds:
 - Certify in writing that all vehicles, equipment, and machinery are free of all weeds including seeds before moving the equipment into the construction area. The COTR or site manager will inspect vehicles prior to bringing them on site.
 - When an area contaminated by weeds is encountered on, or off of, the construction site, use caution to prevent the spreading of weeds to other areas. This may include cleaning the equipment with high-pressure water prior to moving from one work site to another, or installing wheel washes. Notify the COTR or site manager as to the location of the noxious weeds.
7. Use only weed-free materials, or inert materials for mulching and for erosion control.

Erosion control and land use:

8. Require dust abatement on road and construction site, if necessary.

9. Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized for the protection of water resources.
10. Provide a schedule of construction activities to all landowners/agencies along the corridor that could be affected by construction.
11. Keep gates in as found condition (opened or closed). Coordinate construction sequence with landowner so that livestock may be moved if necessary.

Public Health and Safety:

12. Limit construction to daytime hours for noise abatement.
13. No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
14. Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. Contaminated media include materials that are potentially harmful to the environment or human health and safety. Work will proceed only after measures approved by the state and local regulatory agencies are put in place to prevent the spread of contaminated materials and protect the health and safety of workers.
15. Equip vehicles with fire suppression equipment, including a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bladder or water supply.
16. Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Cascade Networks, Inc. LURR at Allston Substation

Work Order #: 275035

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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.

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum

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