

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: James Semrau
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road maintenance along the McNary-Santiam 230-kV and Jones Canyon-Santiam 230-kV transmission line corridors.

Budget Information: WO #00292092

PP&A Project No.: 2044

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 the McNary-Santiam (structure 123/1) & Jones Canyon-Santiam (structure 75/1) transmission line corridors at Wapinitia Road BOL to 125/3. The project area is located in Wasco County, Oregon near the town of Simnasho. The line right-of-way (ROW) is in US Geological Survey Quad map “Wapinitia” and is in Township 6S, Range 12E, Sections 21 and 29.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance activities along existing access roads, both on and off the ROW. The work involves approximately 5,000 linear feet of road reconstruction or improvement work. The roadwork is needed to improve access for crews that will be maintaining the transmission line and towers 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, placement and compaction of crushed aggregate on designated sections of access road and installation of gates. The project includes but is not limited to:

- Reshaping, grading and compacting existing road surfaces and turnouts
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock
- Constructing or reconditioning of water bars, drain dips and outlet ditches
- Erosion control and reseeding
- 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. No machinery, construction equipment, or vehicles will be allowed in any stream or other water body unless authorized by a permit.

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, December 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 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/ Joseph C. Sharpe, for:
Frederick J. Walasavage

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

Date: August 22, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: McNary-Santiam & Jones Canyon-Santiam Access Road Maintenance

Work Order #: 292092 **PP&A Project No.:** 2044

Prepared by: Fred Walasavage **Routing:** KEP **Date:** 8/11/11

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 and a BPA archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Warm Springs Tribe has been contacted by the NRS and has indicated that they have no concerns and granted permission to proceed. 		
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"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file: ESA Effects Determination.