

memorandum

DATE: August 24, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joe Johnson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV-Kalispell

Proposed Action: Replace existing bridge with a concrete box culvert at Granite Creek along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Swan Valley-Goshen 161-kV transmission line.

Budget Information: Work Order # 189268-01

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 2047

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3, Routine maintenance activities for structures, rights-of-way, and infrastructures, (such as roads), that are required to maintain infrastructures in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose.

Location: The proposed project is located on Granite Creek along BPA's Swan Valley-Goshen transmission line in Bonneville County, Idaho, in the BPA Idaho Falls District.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: This project will include the removal of an existing structurally deficient wood bridge and replacing it with a precast concrete box culvert. The new structure will be a 12-foot (span) x 6-foot (rise) x 30-foot (long) box culvert with associated wing walls. The base footprint dimensions of the road crossing will be 42-foot wide by 14-foot long. The driving surface of the roadway will consist of a single 14-foot wide lane. Backfill will be compacted around the structure to lines and grade of the road prism including wing walls. Rip rap and fish rock will be placed around inlet, outlet, and invert as required and shown on the drawings.

All work will be performed using an excavator and/or crane working from the top-of-bank/top-of-fill of Granite Creek. Compaction equipment will be used to consolidate the backfill. No equipment will operate instream, minimizing impacts to the extent possible within the project area.

A temporary diversion dam will be constructed on the upstream side of the project for diverting the creek flow around the work area. Gravity or a pump system will be used to divert the flow. A minimum of two sediment dams will be placed downstream of the work area to minimize any sediment transport during the installation. These activities are expected to be implemented during a two week period of time between October 1, 2011 and November 15, 2011.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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.

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.

In support of the initial installation of the transmission line in 1999, a cultural resource inventory, dated March 31, 1998, was conducted that included the proposed project area. Findings of the inventory did not identify any historic sites within the current project boundaries. Based on the previous inventory findings and in that all the work will occur in areas previously disturbed within the existing access road, BPA has determined the project will have “No Effect” on cultural resources. If during the implementation of the project, cultural or archaeological resources are discovered, work will stop immediately and appropriate actions will be taken.

With the actions identified on the attachment, 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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe, for:

Frederick Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

Date: August 24, 2011

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Swan Valley-Goshen Granite Creek, Bridge Removal/Culvert Installation

Work Order #: 189268-01 **PP&A Project No.:** PP&A-2047

Prepared by: Fred Walasavage **Routing:** KEP-4 **Date:** 8/20/11

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 All work will be within the footprint of the original bridge and roadway.	<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 A permit was submitted to the COE and Idaho Department of Water Resources to allow for work within waters of the US. All mitigation factors identified in the permit will be implemented. Work will not commence until the permit is received.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species