

# memorandum

DATE: September 12, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Heredia  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Purchase easement rights and provide funding to partially cover construction costs incurred by the Nature Conservancy for their access road construction project along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Naselle-Tarlett 115-kV transmission line.

**Budget Information:** TF FY11 funding

**PP&A Project No.:** N/A

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.13 Construction, acquisition, and relocation of ...short onsite access roads... & B1.20 Protect/restore/improve fish and wildlife habitat.

**Location:** The project area is located along BPA's Naselle-Tarlett 115-kV transmission line corridor in Pacific County, Washington. The subject roads are throughout the property between structures 8/13 to 10/5.

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In 2010, the Nature Conservancy (property owner), in accordance to agreements with BPA, abandoned several sections of legal and usable access roads leading to BPA's Naselle-Tarlett 115-kV transmission line corridor. The Nature Conservancy has constructed new, more environmentally friendly sections of access roads on their property to provide BPA alternate access the transmission line right-of-way and structures. BPA proposes to purchase easement rights and provide funding to partially cover construction costs of the new road construction.

**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 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.

In June 2010, BPA contracted with Applied Archaeological Research Inc. (AAR) to conduct a cultural resources survey of the project area. In their report dated July 8, 2011, AAR concluded that archaeological resources were not present in the road segment being constructed. 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 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:*

Greg Tippetts  
Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: */s/ Rick Yarde, for:*

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *September 12, 2011*

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Naselle-Tarlett (Nature Conservancy) Access Road Funding

**Work Order #:** TF FY11 Funded      **PP&A Project No.:** N/A

**Prepared by:** Greg Tippetts      **Routing:** KEPR      **Date:** 9/9/2011

**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"> <li>• In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during re-construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.</li> </ul>		
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