

memorandum

DATE: September 27, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amy Freel
Project Manager - TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Cattle Creek Substation (formerly known as Horse Butte Substation)

Budget Information: Work Order # 00283812 (TC AUO) and 00283765 (TC)

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 “Construction or electric power substations (including switching stations and support facilities) with power delivery at 230-kilovolt (kV) or below, or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing substations and support facilities, ...”

Location: Bonneville County, ID near Idaho Falls.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In response to Utah Associated Municipal Power System’s (UAMPS) interconnection request, BPA is planning to integrate UAMPS’s 100-MW Horse Butte Wind Power Generating Facility into its balancing authority. The proposed point of interconnection is at the Palisades-Goshen 115-kV transmission line adjacent to tower 31/6.

In order to integrate the proposed generation, an interconnection substation will be constructed, comprised of a 3 -ring bus with 230-kV circuits, a 115/161-kV -34.5 transformer, 3 cap banks and 4-34.5 collector circuits with breakers in addition to a control building. UAMPS will construct the substation with technical assistance from BPA and according to BPA’s design specifications. Post-construction, BPA transmission services will take ownership of infrastructure on the high-side, including the 3-ring bus, land, ground grid, fencing and associated panels and communications. The rest of the infrastructure will remain in UAMPS ownership.

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 an intensive site survey of the proposed area of potential effect, and a detailed cultural resource report produced by SWCA environmental consultants, 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 August 25, 2011 to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and Burns Paiute Tribe. A concurrence letter dated September 23, 2011 was received regarding this cultural resource report from the ID SHPO. In the letter, ID SHPO concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties will be affected within the project area. No written reply was received from the tribes.

The project area is absent of water features, unique wildlife habitat, or other environmentally sensitive resources. Because of the previous disturbance and lack of habitat, no ESA-listed species or species 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 exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Dan Gambetta

Dan Gambetta

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Lydia Grimm, for:

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 27, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Cattle Creek Substaion (formerly know as Horse Butte Substation)

Work Order #: 00257258

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/ Dan Gambetta

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