

memorandum

DATE: February 23, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Pearl-Marion No.1 Tower 6/2 replacement project

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 2147, WO# 00296634, Task 3

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Location: Canby, Clackamas County, Oregon
Township 3 South, Range 1 East, Section 19

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace a single tower (6/2) on the existing Pearl-Marion No. 1 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. Tower 6/2 is located along the Molalla River where natural river channel movement and continued stream bank erosion adjacent to the tower has threatened to expose the tower footings. To ensure system reliability and prevent potential line failure, BPA proposes to replace the existing tower with a monopole steel tower on a pier-footing that would allow for continued river movement in the future. The replacement tower will be constructed 50 feet north of the current tower, and the existing lattice-steel tower will be removed after the new tower is built. All work will occur in the existing transmission line right-of-way corridor and existing access roads will be used.

The proposed project is scheduled to occur in May-June 2012, with follow-up site restoration and revegetation scheduled for summer 2012.

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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

The project site is located along the Molalla River near its confluence with the Willamette River. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, BPA submitted a joint permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Portland District requesting authorization for the proposed action. BPA received project authorization under the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit No. 12 (Utility Line Activities) on January 23, 2012, Corps Permit No. NWP-2011-372. The Corps determined that the proposed project may affect Chinook salmon, Upper Willamette ESU, and steelhead, Upper Willamette DPS, both listed threatened species and designated critical habitat protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Essential Fish Habitat as designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps utilized a programmatic biological opinion (SLOPES IV Restoration) to assess compliance with these laws and provide project coverage for incidental take.

The proposed project will not affect any other listed threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat under the ESA. No cultural resources or historic properties were identified during an archaeological survey and consultation pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value.

Based on the provisions 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.

/s/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson

Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 23, 2012

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. All standard erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be used during construction to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and prevent movement of soil into waterways or wetlands.
2. Project activities must be conducted in accordance with additional conditions and BMPs found in the Oregon Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions, Portland District, and other conditions included in the Nationwide Permit Authorization received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District on January 23, 2012, Corps No.: NWP-2011-372. These conditions will be provided to the construction contractor by BPA.
3. Any excess spoils or material resulting from excavation should be disposed of properly offsite or in an upland area, per BPA's specifications. Also, all waste/trash generated during construction will be collected, removed, and disposed legally off-site.
4. Immediately notify the KEP environmental lead (Makary Hutson, 503-230-7667) in the event of a spill or release to the environment. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements.
5. In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:
 - Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and appropriate BPA project staff. A BPA archaeologist, interested Tribes, and the appropriate county, state, federal agencies should also be notified.
 - Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
 - Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site.
 - Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.
6. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not continue until the KEP environmental lead can evaluate those changes.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Pearl-Marion No.1 Tower 6/2 Replacement Project

Work Order #: 00296634, Task 3

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Oregon SHPO concurrence of No Adverse Effect received in two separate letters dated 12/28/2011 and 1/13/2012.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Project activities will be consistent with conditions and BMPs in the NWP permit. The permit included conditions in the USACE programmatic Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species IV (SLOPES IV) biological opinion under the “Major Hazard Response” section. No in-stream work during construction, and implement BMPs to prevent impacts to Molalla River and T&E species. Any near-stream and stream bank restoration will occur during in-stream work window, June 1 through September 30, 2012.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Project activities will be conducted in accordance with conditions and BMPs found in the Oregon Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions, Portland District, and other mitigation measures included in the Nationwide Permit Authorization received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District on January 23, 2012, Corps No.: NWP-2011-372. These conditions will be provided to the construction contractor by BPA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other – Visual Impacts The new tower will be similar to existing transmission infrastructure in existing transmission ROW.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Signed: Makary A. Hutson

Date: February 23, 2012