

memorandum

DATE: February 14, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dawneen Dostert – TERR-LMT

Proposed Action: Clark County Harding Farms LURR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Location: Clark County, Washington – Township 3 North, Range 1 East, Section 25 and Vancouver Quadrangle

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In response to the Clark County Public Works (CCPW) Land Use Review Request (LURR), BPA proposes to grant Clark County two easements across BPA fee-owned parcel south of tower 4/5 of the Ross-Lexington 230-kV transmission line right-of-way. The proposal is necessary due to Clark County PUD's Harding Farms Storm Water and Wetland Improvements Project, which will improve an existing storm water facility adjacent to a BPA power line corridor right-of-way.

BPA will grant Clark County PUD a 20-foot wide, 270-foot long easement for the construction of a drainage ditch and a 25-foot by 260 foot long easement for permanent roadless access for the repair and maintenance of an existing storm sewer outfall and rock slope. No new access roads would be constructed and no staging areas would take place within BPA fee-owned property.

BPA initiated consultation with Washington SHPO, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation on the portion of the project that fell within BPA fee-owned property. Clark County PUD hired URS Corporation to conduct a cultural resources pedestrian survey and shovel tests. The report indicated that although no cultural resources were documented during the cultural resources investigation, the area was considered to have a high probability of buried cultural resources. A cultural resource monitoring plan was recommended and prepared. A professional archaeologist must be on-site to monitor for the presence of archaeological resources during all ground disturbing construction activities within the Harding Farms project site, in accordance with the archaeological monitoring plan entitled "Procedures for Archaeological Monitoring and the Treatment of Archaeological Resources." The Yakama requested that a copy of the report be submitted to their Cultural Resources Program for review. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe stated its interest in the project and asked that an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be included in the project provisions.

This project is located within the broad bottomed valley area of Salmon Creek. A wetland delineation performed by URS Corporation on May 6th and 18th, 2010 determined that BPA's transmission line corridor is almost entirely wetland. In order to meet requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Clark County PUD obtained a Nationwide Permit (NWP) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on January 12, 2012. The provisions set forth in the NWP must be adhered to in order to meet the terms of the permit.

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.

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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Date: February 14, 2012

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Clark County Harding Farms LURR

Work Order #: 00184006, Task 01

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.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources A professional archaeologist must be on-site to monitor for the presence of archaeological resources during all ground disturbing construction activities within the Harding Farms project site, in accordance with the archaeological monitoring plan entitled "Procedures for Archaeological Monitoring and the Treatment of Archaeological Resources."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands All conditions set forth in the <i>Nationwide Permit 43, Terms and Conditions</i> issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to Clark County Environmental Services on January 12, 2012, must be adhered to.	<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 (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory

Date: February 14, 2012

Provisions

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

- All conditions set forth in the *Nationwide Permit 43, Terms and Conditions* issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to Clark County Environmental Services on January 12, 2012, must be adhered to.
- A professional archaeologist must be on-site to monitor for the presence of archaeological resources during all ground disturbing construction activities within the Harding Farms project site, in accordance with the archaeological monitoring plan entitled “Procedures for Archaeological Monitoring and the Treatment of Archaeological Resources.” A copy of the report will be submitted to BPA Cultural Resource staff, the Yakama Nation, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.
- In the unlikely event that archaeological material or human remains are encountered during the implementation of this project, a BPA archaeologist, Washington DAHP, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Corps, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch will immediately be notified and work will be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Clark County PUD shall perform any work required by BPA in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.