

memorandum

DATE: February 7, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Ross
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley #1 Temporary Bridge Installation (116/4-117/1)

PP&A Project No.: 2203

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance.

Location: The project area is confined to the existing access road located to the south of the right-of-way corridor of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Rocky Reach-Maple Valley 345-kV transmission line between miles 116-117. The proposed project, located in King County, Washington, is within BPA's Covington District.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to construct a temporary bridge over an unnamed tributary to Holder Creek. The temporary bridge will reconnect BPA's existing access road and enable access to tower 117/1, which is in critical need of repair. A recent line survey noted that over 50% of the insulators had been shot out, causing safety concerns and system unreliability. Formerly, a culvert existed in this location enabling access, but the culvert was in disrepair and therefore pulled by the landowner, isolating BPA's access to critical infrastructure. The project includes but is not limited to: reconstruction (blading, reshaping, grading, and compacting) of existing road surfaces; hauling, placing, and shaping of rock surfacing; and installation of a temporary bridge across stream with removed culvert. All proposed work is to occur within the existing road prism and should not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbed. No unauthorized construction activities are to occur within the stream or any other water body including other streams, ponds, wetlands, etc. The temporary bridge is to be removed after work has been completed.

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, 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:

Chad Browning

Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 7, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley #1 Temporary Bridge Install (116/4-117/1)

Work Order #: 00300561

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No work to be done below ordinary high water mark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Temporary bridge is to be removed after project completion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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/Chad Browning

Date: January 27, 2012