

memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Todd Nicholson
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Install gravity drain system and oil stop valves, reshape west side perimeter ditch and flush out yard drains at the Hot Springs Substation.

PP&A Project No.: 2383

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

Location: T21N, R24W, S14, PM, Sanders County, Montana

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Using directional drilling equipment, approximately 3,644 linear feet of gravity drain line will be installed under the existing electrical manhole system located in the Hot Springs Substation 230 and 500 Kilovolt (kV) yards. Each manhole will be plumbed into the gravity drain line so that any standing water can be drained from the manhole. A Eco-Stop oil valve will be installed along the gravity drain line located in the 500 kV yard. A manual gate valve will be installed along the gravity drain line located in the 230 kV yard. Both valves will be installed to prevent oil discharges from entering the perimeter drainage ditch during a spill event. The proposed drain system will improve operational concerns as well as maintain the reliability of the substation's underground electrical system.

Additional onsite work will include reshaping approximately 1,782 linear feet of the perimeter drainage ditch along the west side of the substation and flushing out the storm water yard drains that have become clogged with sediment. This will improve storm water removal within the substation yard and reduce water infiltration into the electrical manholes.

All work performed will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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.

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:

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 19, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY12 Hot Springs Gravity Drain Project

Work Order #: 00310101

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work will be conducted in areas where previously disturbed soils are present and will be limited to the to the facility's prism. • In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All work will be conducted within the substation yard and adjoining drainage ditch, which are not considered viable habitat for Threatened and Endangered species.		
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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael Rosales

Date: June 27, 2012