

memorandum

DATE: July 13, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad J. Hamel
Project Manager, TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: South Tacoma-Frederickson Fiber Project (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on June 10, 2011*)

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 - Fiber Optic Cable

Location: Pierce County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install fiber optic cable between BPA's South Tacoma Substation and the City of Tacoma's Frederickson Substation in Pierce County, Washington. The 1-mile long fiber optic cable would increase the reliability and redundancy of communications between the two substations. This project originally proposed a combination of overhead and buried installation of the fiber optic cable. However, due to increased costs associated with a partial overhead installation, BPA has decided to bury the fiber optic cable for the entire route. The project would include the fiber optic cable placed in conduit and installed using a horizontal directional borer and three new fiber vaults. The project would mostly run along existing city streets in an industrial area and no new access roads or road upgrades would be required.

The fiber optic cable route would start from an existing fiber vault in BPA's South Tacoma Substation yard and head northeast to 180th Street East. At 180th Street East, a new fiber vault would be installed. The route would continue east along the south side of 180th Street East to 50th Avenue East. A second new fiber vault would be installed on the west side of 50th Avenue East. The route would then run south along the west side of 50th Avenue East, then turn west into the City of Tacoma's Fredrickson Substation where the third new fiber vault would be installed. The City of Tacoma would then continue to make the interconnection of this proposed new fiber line into their substation.

The directional boring depth would range from 4 feet up to 20 feet where existing buried structures/lines and a railroad bed would be crossed. The fiber vaults would have a footprint of 4'x4'x4'. Any excess soils removed from vault locations or during the boring process would be properly disposed of by the contractor that would be hired to perform the work. Electronic markers called omni balls would be placed with the fiber optic cable to be able to locate the underground fiber.

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 in 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/ Andrew M. Montaña
Andrew M. Montaña, PMP
Environmental Project Manager, KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 13, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: South Tacoma-Fredrickson Fiber Project

Work Order #: 00224730, 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 <i>DAHP concurrence on Final Determination of No Effect to Historic Properties received on 6/25/2012</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) <i>Highly disturbed roadside, thus no T&E Species present</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands <i>Not present</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation <i>Not present</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands <i>Not present</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water <i>Not present</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Andrew M. Montaña

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