

memorandum

DATE: June 12, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joan B. Kendall
Project Manager –TERR-3

Proposed Action: Sale of Line Mile 1 of the 115-kilovolt (kV) Tanner Tap to Snoqualmie-Lake Tradition #1 Transmission Line

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):
Appendix B 1.24. Property Transfer

Location: King County, Washington; Township 24 North, Range 7 East, Section 36, Willamette Meridian

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to sell to Puget Sound Energy (PSE) the first eight spans of its 115-kV Tanner Tap to Snoqualmie-Lake Tradition #1 transmission line (Tanner Tap-8). Tanner Tap-8, built in 2002, is owned and operated by BPA and located within a 150 foot wide right-of-way, at a 2.5 foot offset from the most westerly edge. Immediately adjacent to and parallel with the westerly edge of the 150 foot wide right-of-way is the easement to be released to the underlying landowners. The easement to be released is approximately one acre in size and is 22.5 feet wide, extending 1,903 feet from near the Tap Point to 10 feet beyond Structure 1/8. BPA would sell the wood poles, attached hardware, and the conductor to PSE and also release the easement rights of this 22.5 foot wide strip of land to the underlying landowners.

PSE requested to purchase the first eight spans of this transmission line because PSE is constructing a new substation in the area, the proposed Mt. Si Substation. Mt. Si Substation would become the new terminus of the Tanner Tap transmission line on the PSE system. BPA has no need of this section of the Tanner Tap transmission line in the near future for network purposes. PSE will own, operate, and maintain the first eight spans of the transmission line.

Because there would be no ground disturbance as a part of the project, there would be no impacts to natural resources.

Health and Safety - In 2011, BPA conducted a review of the area that would be sold in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). BPA has not had any reportable releases in the area that would be sold and there have been no hazardous substances, toxic materials, or petroleum products disposed on the property.

Cultural Resources – During the initial environmental review for the construction of the Tanner Tap, BPA contracted with an archaeological and cultural resources firm, Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA). HRA conducted a literature review and field survey for the proposed project in November 1999. HRA did not locate prehistoric or historic cultural resources that would

be affected by construction, operation, or maintenance of the transmission line. BPA conducted Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act with the state of Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and also with interested and affected Tribes. In a letter dated March 23, 2000, the SHPO concurred that no properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places would be affected. Because there have been no historic properties identified within the portion of the transmission line that would be sold, the sale of the first eight spans would not adversely affect historic properties.

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/ Kimberly R. St.Hilaire
Kimberly R. St.Hilaire
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

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