

memorandum

DATE: October 15, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Sheila Bennett
Technology Innovation Portfolio Manager, Technology Innovations – ST-3

Matt DeLong
Contract Specialist for Technology Innovation Projects – NSSP-4

Proposed Action: Aquatic Invasive Mussels Monitoring

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B3.1 – Site characterization and environmental monitoring

Location: Columbia River Basin

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to partially fund the expansion of ongoing research and monitoring efforts on the potential spread and impact of aquatic invasive mussels in the Columbia River Basin through BPA's Fiscal Year 2013 Technology Innovation Portfolio. Washington State University Vancouver would conduct the enhanced research and monitoring efforts with co-sponsorship from the U.S. Geological Survey's Columbia River Research Laboratory. The enhanced research and monitoring efforts would involve the sampling of river water in areas of high risk for invasive mussel introduction and establishment in the Columbia River Basin, and in areas where monitoring is not currently occurring. This information would be used to enhance other monitoring and detection efforts, develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer describing all river access points for prioritizing placement of boat cleaning stations, and study the cause and effect of biological invasions within the Columbia River Basin.

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.

We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Jeffrey J. Maslow

Jeffrey J. Maslow

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 15, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Aquatic Invasive Mussels Monitoring

Work Order #: 00003863

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"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	<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"/>

Signed: /s/ Jeffrey J. Maslow

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