

# memorandum

DATE: December 19, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Kristi Unholz  
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Improve the access road system in miles 4, 5, 16, 17, 18, and 30 of the Lower Granite-Hatwai transmission line

**PP&A Project No.:** 2378

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance. B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

**Location:** As identified in table below:

Lower Granite-Hatwai Access Road Project				
Location	Township	Range	Section	County, State
mile 4 to mile 5	13N	43E	2	Whitman, WA
mile 16	12N	45E	8	
mile 17	12N	45E	17	
mile 18	12N	45E	20	
mile 30	36N	5W	19, 30	Nez Perce, ID

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to perform road maintenance along the Lower Granite-Hatwai 500-kilovolt transmission line access road system. Existing roads will be improved/ reconstructed to the existing width or maximum of 14 feet. Road segments requiring improvements/reconstruction will be bladed, shaped, rocked, and compacted. Roads will be brushed within 20 feet of road centerline.

Site specific road improvement/reconstruction details are as follows:

- Access to structure 4/1:  
Construct ford and remove debris from gully. Replace the two existing culverts with 18 inch by 20 foot cross drain culverts at drainages and construct ditch between culverts. Install drain dips between 4/1 and the ford crossing. Grade approximately 5000 linear feet of existing road segment. As recommended per Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, approaches to any water crossings shall be rocked to the top of the gradient break

and the ford shall be armored to prevent vehicle traffic from mobilizing sediment in flow periods.

- Access into structure 16/3 back on line:  
Repair slide area by filling with pit run and rebuilding road. The top two feet shall be topsoil to repair field. Approximately 300 feet of road will be reconstructed by the slide repair. Install gate.
- Access into structure 17/2 back on line:  
Reconstruct identified muddy areas (600 feet) by placing geotextile fabric and rock to stabilize surface. Reconstruct access road from gate through slide area (approximately 500 feet). Repair slide area by cutting into hillside and using excavated material to fill slide area. Install water bars on either side of slide area. Grade approximately 4000 linear feet of road. Install gate.
- Access to structure 30/1:  
Reconstruct existing road by grading approximately 4000 linear feet and installing water bars.
- Access to structure 30/1 to structure 29/5:  
Reconstruct existing road by grading approximately 1100 linear feet.

Appropriate erosion control devices will be installed prior to road work for erosion control and protection of nearby water resources. Any work performed in drainage conveyances will be performed during low flow or no flow conditions. All standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMP's) as per the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington will be utilized during all phases of road reconstruction and road improvements to prevent sedimentation of any nearby water resources.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

**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:*

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Michael A. Rosales  
Physical Scientist

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

DATE: *December 19, 2012*

Attachments:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions  
Effects Determination for T&E Species

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Lower Granite-Hatwai Access Road Improvement

Work Order #: 00304949

**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 The records/literature review and pedestrian survey indicates that this undertaking will not affect historic properties. WA & ID SHPO, WSU, and the CCT concurred with BPA's No Historic Properties Affected determination. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will halt, the area will be secured, and a BPA archaeologist and your office will be notified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T&E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species are present within ½ mile of the project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Surface waters are present within ½ mile of the project. All erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) as per the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington will be utilized during all phases of road reconstruction and road improvements to prevent sedimentation of any nearby water resources.	<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: December 17, 2012

Michael A. Rosales – KEPR-Bell-1