

memorandum

DATE: November 1, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Johny Luiz
Electrical Engineer – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Tucannon River Substation Expansion Project

PP&A Project No.: 2,425

Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6, Additions and modifications to transmission facilities; and, B4.11, Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: Columbia County, Washington, T10N R41E Sec 8 and 17

Description of the Proposed Action: The energized yard at the existing Tucannon River Substation would be expanded to the east approximately 90 feet, and to the north approximately 100 feet to accommodate two new shunt capacitor banks and associated electrical equipment, footings, ground mat, fence, switchyard surface, and drainage features. Approximately two acres outside of the existing substation fence, and approximately 0.1 acre within the energized substation yard, would be disturbed by project activities. The area surrounding Tucannon River Substation is used for agriculture. Geotechnical testing would be necessary prior to construction. Geotechnical testing would consist of one to three, eight inch drilled borings, each to a depth of approximately 60 feet, at locations within the area of the proposed expansion.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: November 1, 2012

Attachments

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Tucannon River Substation Expansion Project

Work Order #: 310177

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 On October 8, 2012, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with BPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected". On September 13, 2012, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation also concurred with BPA's determination. BPA received no response from the other consulting tribes. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and an environmental representative should be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Known populations Canada lynx and Ute ladies'-tresses do not occur near the project area. Additionally, the project area does not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project area is not adjacent to, and there is no pathway to, waters with recorded bull trout or anadromous fish usage. Further, Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented such that project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. For the above reasons, it was determined that this project would have "No Effect" on these listed species, critical habitat, and EFH.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Oden W. Jahn

Date: October 30, 2012

Oden W. Jahn, KEPR-4