

memorandum

DATE: March 25, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Tom McClatchie
Project Manager – TF-Bell-1

Proposed Action: Install rip rap along the stream bank at two wood pole structures located along the Bell-Boundary No. 3 transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 2607

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Location: Bell-Boundary No. 3, structure 74/7 and 77/7, Stevens County, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Recent channel shifts of the meandering streams have resulted in stream bank erosion and stream encroachment towards structures 74/7 and 77/7 of the Bell-Boundary No. 3, 230-kV transmission line. Stabilization of the stream bank at each structure location is necessary to protect the structures from additional erosion during the anticipated high stream flows in the spring. BPA proposes to remove the existing woody debris upstream and downstream at each structure location, place rip rap along the eroded stream bank for a distance of 15 feet upstream and 15 feet downstream at each structure location, and place the woody debris (brush and root wads) within the riprap to promote stream bank re-vegetation. To minimize sedimentation of the streams, appropriate erosion control devices will be utilized during all phases of the project. In addition, only track mounted vehicles will be permitted for use off pavement to minimize vegetation disturbance.

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. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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:

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

Concur: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce*

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: *March 25, 2013*

Attachments:

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

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Bell-Boundary No. 3 bank stabilization

Work Order #: 137633

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"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency notifications to WA SHPO and the Confederated Colville Tribes were initiated. An onsite cultural archaeologist will be present during the project activities. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ T & E species are not present in the project area. No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission lines. ▪ Both the North Fork Mill Creek (structure 74/7) and Marble Creek (structure 77/7) do not contain any protected fish species. 		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during rip rap placemen activities. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat.		
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 A. Rosales

Date March 19, 2013

Michael A. Rosales, KEPR-BELL-1