

memorandum

DATE: July 2, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Brian Brady
Project Forester – TERS-3

Proposed Action: Tree clearing at Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Chehalis Substation

PP&A Project No.: 2693

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

Location: Chehalis Substation, Lewis County, Washington

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to clear 82 trees over approximately 0.68 acres adjacent to the BPA Chehalis Substation on BPA fee-owned property. Root rot has begun to cause tree failure that is impacting an adjacent local substation owned by Clark County. The majority of the trees are Douglas and Grand fir, with some Cherry, Big Leaf Maple, Alder, and Western Red Cedar. The trees range in height from about 27 to 76 feet. The clearing would take place this summer after August 31 to avoid disturbance to any nesting species.

A standard rubber-tired skidder will move the material from the stand to a staging area on the southern edge of the unit. A self-loading log truck will load the material to a truck for transport to a local mill. Tops, limbs, and sub-merchantable material will be chipped in a drum or tub style chipper and removed from the site to avoid accumulation of fuels and to mitigate the potential for insects.

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.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 2, 2013

Attachments:

ESA Effect Determination

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chehalis Substation Tree Clearing Project

Work Order #: 226004

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 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit is known to be within the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands The project will not occur in wetlands, floodplains, or near other water bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation BPA fee-owned property adjacent to Chehalis Substation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands Project does not take in or near farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No water resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Chehalis Tree Clearing Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: June 28, 2013

Aaron Shurtliff / KEPR-4