

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 26, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darin Bowman
Civil Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road and landing improvements on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Monroe-Custer No. 2 transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 2748

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, infrastructures, equipment

Location: Skagit and Snohomish counties, Washington

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct access road improvements along selected areas of the Monroe-Custer No. 2, 500-kilovolt transmission line right-of-way (ROW). Specifically, work will take place between structures 10/3 to 11/2 and structures 45/5 to 47/3. Project work includes, but is not limited to: blading, reshaping, the addition of rock, and installation of cross-drain culverts, drain dips, ditch reliefs, waterbars, and gates. All work would occur within BPA's ROW and on existing access roads and landings.

These sections of the transmission line ROW corridor are located on private and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land. The surrounding area is mostly forested with a few scattered rural residential properties within. The terrain is flat to rolling hills.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, April 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/ Chad Browning
Chad Browning
Environmental Project Manager

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

DATE: August 26, 2013

Attachment(s)
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Monroe-Custer #2 Access Road Improvement Project

Work Order #: 00333595 PP&A Project No.: 2748

Prepared by: Chad Browning Routing: KEPR-Covington Date: 8/21/2013

This project has been found to **not** adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources • All access road and landing improvements performed would be limited to existing road/landing prism • In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate area will stop, the area secured, and the WA SHPO and BPA environmental lead must be notified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other See attached USFS Concurrence Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning

Date: August 21, 2013

Chad Browning, KEPR/Covington