

# memorandum

DATE: August 5, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Kerry Cook  
Civil Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Construction of rockfall barrier fence above Chief Joseph-Snohomish transmission tower 93/1

**PP&A Project No.:** 2360

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.11 Fencing, no adverse effect on wildlife movement/surface water flow

**Location:** King County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Snohomish District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to install a rockfall barrier fence (rated to withstand a 300-kilojoule rock slide) above the Chief Joseph-Snohomish structure 93/1 to protect the tower from impending rock slides located on a nearby cliff. The proposed barrier is to be 100 feet in length and will be located completely within BPA's ROW. Ground disturbance will be limited to the boring of small holes to allow for fence post installation.

This section of the transmission line right-of-way corridor is located on U.S. Forest Service land. The surrounding area is heavily forested with the town of Skykomish situated below the mountain side where structure 93/1 is located. The terrain is mountainous (rolling to steep). There is adequate, existing access to the subject structure for this project and no access road work is anticipated.

**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 5, 2013

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

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Chief Joseph-Snohomish #3 Structure 93/1 Rockfall Barrier Installation

**Work Order #:** 00308251                      **PP&A Project No.:** 2360

**Prepared by:** Chad Browning                      **Routing:** KEPR-Covington                      **Date:** 7/15/2013

**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 Received SHPO concurrence on August 1, 2013	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Visual mitigation will be implemented per USFS request (see attached USFS Concurrence Letter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety If fire danger exists, BPA will submit Fire Plan to USFS for approval prior to commencing work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 1, 2013

Chad Browning, KEPR/Covington