

memorandum

DATE: July 17, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dustin Liebhaber
Project Manager – TELP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Capacity Increase on Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Horse Ranch Tap Line

PP&A Project No.: 2,707

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install a new disconnect switch and associated modifications on the Horse Ranch Tap line in Snohomish County, Washington. BPA owns and maintains the line disconnect switch and the first 0.34 miles of the Tap line, while Puget Sound Energy (PSE) owns and operates the remaining 3.48 miles of the H-frame, wood pole 230-kilovolt Tap line. PSE recently rebuilt its Horse Ranch Switching Station and upgraded their portion of the Tap line to a higher operating temperature. In order to keep the PSE and BPA line section ratings compatible, BPA must upgrade the disconnect switch, replace line components on six structures in-kind, perform access road maintenance, and raise one wood pole structure by 10 feet to provide required ground clearance. The project corridor is located on relatively open, flat terrain adjacent to backyards in a residential and rural-residential neighborhood. The project is scheduled to start in August 2013.

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.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not have any visual impacts.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson

Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 17, 2013

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Horse Ranch Tap line capacity increase

Work Order #: 00321083, Task 3

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington DAHP concurrence of no adverse effect received in letter dated 6/25/2013. 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"/>
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 – Visual Impacts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: July 16, 2013

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4