

United States Government
memorandum

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

DATE: September 13, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR/Olympia

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darin Bowman
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Chehalis-Raymond No. 1 Access road maintenance

Budget Information: Work Order #00333595

PP&A Project No.: 2783

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

Location: Lewis and Pacific counties, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance and reconstruction activities along a total of approximately 1.2 miles of existing BPA access roads leading to and along the Chehalis-Raymond No. 1 transmission line ROW. Road reconstruction work will occur both on and off the transmission line right-of-way, associated with the following structure locations: 20/2 to 21/3, 27/8 to 28/1, 34/4, 42/2, and 42/3. Lands within the project areas consist of private residential, agricultural, and private timber properties.

The roadwork is needed to improve access for crews that will be maintaining the transmission line and towers within the transmission line corridor. The work will consist of blading and shaping of access roads, construction or maintenance of drainage structures or features, replacement of gates, and placement and compaction of crushed aggregate on designated sections of roads. All proposed work will occur within the existing road prism and will not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbed. No tree removal will be required and no construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, wetlands, etc. The project includes the following actions:

- Reshaping, grading and compacting existing road surfaces and turnouts
- Placing Geotextile fabric
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock.
- Constructing or reconditioning of water bars, drain dips, and outlet ditches
- Replacement installation of in-kind gates
- Cleaning cross drain culverts and ditches

Findings: The BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992), as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243,

July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). 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, 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.

The subject project areas occur on previously disturbed, filled, and maintained roads. No previously undisturbed areas will be disturbed and no new road sections will be constructed during this project. Based on this, BPA has determined the project will have “No Effect” on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act.

No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or other sensitive areas are known to exist within the project areas. However, due to the proximity of coastal forests to the project area there is the potential for Marbled Murrelets to occur at or near the project sites. The project will take place outside the breeding seasons timing restrictions from April 1st to September 15th when the species is unlikely to be present, thus limiting the potential for noise disturbance.

Based on this, the proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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:

Greg Tippetts
Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 13, 2013

Attachment
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chehalis-Raymond Access Road Reconstruction Project 2013

Work Order #: 00333595 PP&A Project No.: 2783

Prepared by: Greg Tippetts Routing: KEPR Date: 9/11/13

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

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Washington Natural Heritage database does not document any marbled murrelet sightings within 1 mile of the project areas. However, due to the proximity of the project areas to coastal forests there is potential for Marbled Murrelets to occur at or near the project sites. To mitigate for this potential the project will take place outside the breeding seasons timing restrictions from April 1st to September 15th, when the birds are unlikely to be in the forested areas. 		
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

- ESA Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Greg Tippetts

Date: September 11, 2013

Greg Tippetts, KEPR/Olympia