

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: September 12, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jim Semrau  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Shelton-Fairmont #2 115-kilovolt (kV) Tap

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Location:** Skokomish, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to construct a tap on its Shelton-Fairmont #2 115 kV line to interconnect a new Mason Public Utility District #1 (PUD) substation on the Skokomish Indian Reservation. The tap will involve replacing two wood-pole structures on the transmission line, running new conductor in the span between the two wood-poles, and installing metering and equipment in the PUD's substation. The PUD's substation is needed to serve load growth within the Reservation and along Highway 101 and allow the decommissioning of the existing Skokomish Valley Substation which is frequently flooded by the Skokomish River and suffers from repeated outages.

BPA will construct two wood-pole tap structures adjacent to existing wood-pole structures 12/1 and 12/2 on the Shelton-Fairmont #2 and install two new disconnect switches. Minor grading will be needed at both structures to create landings from which construction vehicles will be operated. Ground disturbing activities will be limited to an area approximately 100 x 100 feet around each structure. The existing poles will be cut below ground surface and removed. Native soils will be spread over the cut ends and the surface restored to original site conditions. Any excess cut materials remaining after project completion will be scattered on-site.

Overhead conductor, insulators and line hardware will be installed between the tap structures and a deadend A-frame structure within the PUD's substation yard. Metering and communication equipment will be installed in the substation control house. Equipment will include bucket truck, crane/auger truck, forklift, dump trucks, fire trailer, tool trailer, rubber tire backhoe, handheld compactor, and miscellaneous small hand tools. The site is accessible by an existing maintained access road that will also be used for construction of the PUD substation.

**Findings:** Consultation was initiated with Kris Miller, Skokomish Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) on August 16, 2013. Following a site visit on September 4, 2013 with a BPA archaeologist and the THPO, the Tribal Legal Office confirming no further investigation necessary in a letter dated September 6, 2013. On September 11, 2013, the tribe determined that BPA's actions were addressed by the PUD's Skokomish Environmental Protection Act (SKEPA) permit No. 2012-05 and further consideration by the Tribal Council would not be necessary.

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.

*/s/ Carolyn Sharp*  
Carolyn Sharp  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy Mason*  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *September 12, 2013*

Attachment:  
*Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions*

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Shelton Fairmont #2 115-kV Line Tap to Mason County PUD #1 Substation

Work Order #: 00319343

**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 THPO concurrence that no further investigation needed recv'd 9/6/13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

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