

memorandum

DATE: September 20, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ken Adamson
Engineering Technician (Civil) – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Timber Tap to Forest Grove-Keeler No. 1 Access Road Maintenance Project

PP&A Project No.: 2628

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

Location: Washington County, Oregon, in the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Chemawa District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to maintain existing access roads along approximately 11 miles of the Timber Tap to Forest Grove-Keeler No. 1 transmission line from structure 1/1 to 11/1. The work would involve cleaning debris from existing culverts, replacing in-kind failed culverts, grading and applying crushed gravel to existing access roads, installing drain dips, installing new and replacing failed gates, reconstructing one low water ford, improving an abandoned railroad crossing with two rock approaches and anchoring pressure treated wood to existing railroad ties, and re-decking two wood bridges. There will be no tree cutting and all work will take place within the existing road prism. No work will be conducted below the ordinary high water mark of any streams. The project is proposed to begin in fall 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.

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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 20, 2013

Attachment:
Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Timber Tap to Forest Grove-Keeler No. 1 Access Road Maintenance Project

Work Order #: 00332141

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.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Work is limited to existing access road prism along the ROW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Project will not take place within designated critical habitat. There is one documented northern spotted owl sighting near the project area, but further than ¼ mile. Additionally, work will occur outside the breeding season for spotted owl (March 1 to Sept 30). No work will be conducted below the ordinary high water mark.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No work will be conducted in wetlands or floodplains.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Coordination has taken place with private landowners and railroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Timber Tap to Forest Grove-Keeler No. 1 Access Road Maintenance Project Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Date: September 12, 2013

Aaron Shurtliff, KEPR-4