

memorandum

DATE: January 27, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jonathan Toobian
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Fiber installation at Snohomish, SnoKing and Murray substations

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 Fiber optic cable

Location: Snohomish County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install short sections of new fiber optic cable at three substations in Snohomish County to support a request from Snohomish Public Utility District (PUD). The PUD currently owns control and communication equipment at BPA's Snohomish, SnoKing, and Murray substations. This proposed project would enable the PUD to upgrade its communications equipment by installing a fiber network.

At each substation, BPA would install new fiber optic cable from an existing equipment cabinet in the control house, through the substation yard, using existing conduit. Outside the substation fence, BPA would dig a trench approximately 2-feet deep for new 4-inch PVC conduit. The trench would be between the existing conduit and a new BPA-owned customer vault (4-foot by 4-foot by 4-foot) located at the base of an existing PUD-owned transmission line. The trench lengths would be 140 linear feet at Murray, 190 linear feet at SnoKing, and 325 linear feet at Snohomish Substation. At the customer vault, BPA would splice together the BPA and PUD fibers.

Once the proposed vault and conduit are in place, the excavations would be backfilled using the excavated soil. Any remaining soil would be disposed of on-site within the footprint of the disturbed areas, and it would be graded to conform to the existing land contours. If deemed necessary, the disturbed areas would be reseeded using a native seed mix to help restore native vegetation and improve erosion control. The underground installation of conduit would be marked with orange Omni-Balls and above ground marker posts.

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.

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/ Carolyn Sharp
Carolyn Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 27, 2014

Attachments:
Provisions
Categorical Exclusion Checklist

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Japanese knotweed is known to occur in the proposed Project area at SnoKing Substation. It is classified as a Class B noxious weed by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board. Prior to project construction, implement control methods recommended by the weed board to remove the infestation and prevent new colonies from being established.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Fiber installation at Snohomish, SnoKing & Murray Substations

Work Order #: 00329157, 00329164, 00329150,

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 Washington SHPO concurrence received December 17, 2013 Stillaguamish Tribe concurrence received December 20, 2013	<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 None present	<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) Invasive Japanese Knotweed at SnoKing to be controlled during construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

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