

memorandum

DATE: April 21, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ben Deschuytter
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Burial of Overhead Fiber Optic Cable at Grand Coulee Radio Station

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

Location: Coulee Dam, Grant County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to bury an existing overhead fiber optic cable currently strung between the Grand Coulee radio station communication building and a transmission tower on the Columbia-Grand Coulee No. 1 transmission line. As installed, the fiber optic cable does not meet Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) compliance: the Proposed Action would bring it into compliance. The fiber would be moved underground through a new conduit of 4-foot PVC pipe that would be installed as part of this project. The conduit would be 130 feet long and buried to a depth of 36 inches. Construction activities would include digging an 8-foot-wide trench for the conduit, which would be filled once the fiber and conduit is installed. Because of the rocky ground, loud equipment such as jackhammers could be used, along with a bucket excavator, for creating the trench.

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/ Kara Hempy-Mayer
Kara Hempy-Mayer
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 21, 2014

Attachments:
Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, take the following actions:

- Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and cultural resource specialist. Interested tribes and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies should also be notified.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site and restrict access to the site of discovery

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Burial of Overhead Fiber Optic Cable at Grand Coulee Radio Station

Work Order #: 304511

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 No effect determination: BPA conducted a records review of the affected area. Previous surveys have been done in the project area with no historic properties found. BPA consulted with SHPO, the Bureau of Reclamation (underlying landowner), and area tribes on 2/27/14. Concurrence was received from SHPO on 3/11/14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect determination: there are no documented occurrences of T&E species in the affected area. Habitat in the affected area is unlikely to support T&E species since it is highly disturbed from past and ongoing activities in a developed area that includes the Grand Coulee Dam, surrounding infrastructure, and the town of Coulee Dam.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands The affected area does not occur in a floodplain or wetland.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation There are no areas of special designation in the affected area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Workers would follow BPA standards for health and safety during construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands The affected area does not occur in prime farmland or farmland of statewide/unique importance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water The affected area is 0.14 mile from a ditch canal of the Columbia River, and 0.25 mile from Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake at the confluence of the Columbia and Pend Orielle rivers. Project activities would not affect these special sources of water.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Related Projects:

BPA. 2010. Grand Coulee Substation 115kV and 230kV Fiber Addition CX Memo. BPA: Portland, OR.

Signed: /s/ Kara Hempy-Mayer

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