

memorandum

DATE: March 17, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR/Pasco

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Greg Wilfong
Lineman Foreman III – TFPF-PASCO

Proposed Action: Telephone line removal along the access road into Wautoma Substation

PP&A Project No.: 2906

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

Location: Benton County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Pasco District

Township	Range	Sections
12 N	24 E	20

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to remove approximately 2000 feet of old telephone line that runs along the access road into Wautoma Substation on BPA fee-owned property. When Wautoma Substation was built 10 years ago, Century Link put in the phone line to a depth of 18-24 inches. The phone line is no longer needed and has been exposed and/or compromised by grazing cattle that knock over the junction box pedestals. Due to the risk of ground faults within the substation that could travel down to the compromised areas of the phone line, BPA needs to remove this phone line.

BPA proposes walking the phone line out of the ground using heavy equipment when the ground has thawed. This action would minimize the digging that would need to occur. Work is currently scheduled to start spring 2014.

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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Shawn L. Barndt

Environmental Scientist, Tri-Cities District

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 17, 2014

Attachment:

Project Location Attachment

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY14 Wautoma Substation Phone Line Removal project

Work Order #: 00342151

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. SHPO Concurrence received 02/10/2014. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) There are no T&E Species in the vicinity of the proposed work area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Shawn L. Barndt

Date: March 12, 2014

Shawn L. Barndt/KEPR-Pasco