

memorandum

DATE: April 30, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Celilo Converter Station Upgrades (*update to previous categorical exclusions issued on July 25, 2013 and March 11, 2014*)

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

Location: The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is upgrading its Celilo Converter Station. In addition to the work described in the previous categorical exclusions for this project (July 25, 2013 and March 11, 2014), BPA proposes to replace three buried power supply cables that run about a half mile in existing BPA fee-owned right-of-way between Big Eddy Substation and the Celilo Converter Station.

The existing power supply cables were direct-buried 2 to 4 feet underground in the 1980s. Over time, soil erosion has exposed the cables, causing maintenance and reliability concerns. BPA proposes to replace the existing cables in buried conduit in the three different cable routes. BPA would excavate trenches—each about 2-foot-wide, 4 to 6-foot-deep and 3,200-foot-long—with a backhoe. The new cables would each be placed in 4-inch PVC conduit and encased in concrete. Five vaults per cable, each about 4-feet, by 4-feet, by 6-feet, would be installed at angle points along the cable routes. The trenches would be backfilled using the excavated soil, and disturbed areas would be reseeded using a regionally appropriate seed mix to restore vegetation and improve erosion control. The cables connect to the ground mats at the substations.

The area that would be disturbed is a grassy hillside previously disturbed by the installation of numerous utility lines connecting the two stations. The proposed project is anticipated to occur during May 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/ Carolyn Sharp
Carolyn Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 30, 2014

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Celilo Converter Station Upgrades (update to previous Categorical Exclusions issued on July 25, 2013 and March 11, 2014)

Work Order #: 00315552, task 03

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 SHPO concurrence on no adverse affect to historic property received 1/28/14 Proposed work is in previously surveyed APE.	<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 The Celilo Converter Station is within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Because it is within the designated Urban Area planning boundary, work at the Converter Station is exempt from the National Scenic Area requirements.	<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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