

memorandum

DATE: June 2, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-CELILO

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacie Hensley
Realty Specialist – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Swan Valley-Teton overhead fiber line install

PP&A Project Number: 2961

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications

Location: Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Idaho Falls District. Detailed project location is listed below:

Township	Range	Section(s)	County	Use	Ownership
2N	43E	26, 27, 34, and 35	Bonneville	Rangeland	Private/Government

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install less than a mile of overhead fiber lines on the Swan Valley-Teton 115-kilovolt transmission line from the BPA Swan Valley Substation to the BPA Swan Valley Radio Site (at BPA Structure 1/7). Approximately 100 feet of underground fiber will be placed in the area of the Radio Site. Construction will be completed by BPA line crews. BPA linemen will utilize standard work trucks, utility trucks, backhoe, and may use a helicopter to construct due to some areas of steep terrain. This work will be completed during the summer of 2014. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. The Bureau of Land Management has been notified about the proposed work on its land.

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) 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.

With the actions 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce*

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *June 2, 2014*

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Work Order #: 322700

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cultural review was completed for the project area. No conditions were identified. ▪ The field survey report titled “Cultural Resources Field Survey for the Palisades–Swan Valley Fiber Optic Project, Bonneville County, Idaho,” was sent to the Idaho SHPO on May 20, 2014 with a determination of No Adverse Effect. SHPO concurrence issued on May 30, 2014. ▪ 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. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To avoid any potential nesting disturbance of migratory birds, no work will be conducted between May 1 and July 1.		

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Frederick J. Walasavage

Date: 5/21/14

Frederick J. Walasavage, KEP/Celilo