

memorandum

DATE: June 2, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jim Semrau
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Cowlitz Tap Line Rebuild and Access Road Maintenance

PP&A Project No.: 2220

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance; B1.24 Property Transfers; B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Location: Pierce County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to rebuild the existing Cowlitz Tap to Chehalis-Covington No. 1 transmission line, a 6.5-mile-long, 230-kilovolt wood pole transmission line in Pierce County, Washington. The proposed project involves replacing the majority of the wood pole structures, conductor, and components in-kind; existing access road improvements including shaping, rocking, and compacting gravel road surfaces; and acquiring permanent realty easements for existing access routes.

All project activities will take place within the existing, cleared transmission line right-of-way (ROW) corridor. Double wood pole tower, poles, crossarms, and components will be replaced in-kind at each typical H-frame. Guy anchors and rods will also be replaced on any guyed-structures. Structures will be replaced in-kind in the same structure footprint, typically re-using the same holes after the existing poles are removed. The project also includes acquiring permanent easements for existing access routes, and the installation of a staging and material yard on BPA property adjacent to the BPA South Tacoma Substation. The transmission line corridor traverses over relatively flat to moderately rolling terrain in rural-residential neighborhoods, grazing lands, and agricultural fields.

The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line to minimize risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region. The proposed work is scheduled to begin with access road maintenance in June 2014, followed by the line rebuild during an outage in October-November 2014. All work will be in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code and BPA standards.

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.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value and no project sites are within a governmentally designated scenic area.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusions referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: June 2, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Cowlitz Tap Line Rebuild and Access Road Maintenance

Work Order #: 299805

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 No historical properties were identified in the project APE during background research or a survey completed in May-June 2013. DAHP concurrence with the BPA determination of "No adverse effect" was received via letter dated July 29 th , 2013 (DAHP # 021913-09-BPA). No tribal comments were received.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Removal of structure 1/13 from the Clover Creek wetland should be done in late-summer during WDFW in-water work timing window to further minimize any potential for fish or aquatic species to be present in the area. Removal shall follow all conditions in the project MIT and any recommendations from the USACE for in-water work. No other federally listed T&E species or designated critical habit are known to be within the project area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Project access road improvements include some culvert replacements in waters of the U.S. BPA submitted a JARPA to USACE on 2/21/2014 (NWS-2014-167). All work must be in accordance with final NWP letter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Project crosses through a rural residential area. Work must be performed in accordance with BPA line construction specifications and safety requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands Project is in an existing corridor that will not impact current land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water Project will require a spill prevention and response plan and other measures to protect residential water wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (Visual Impacts)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Makary Hutson
Makary Hutson / KEPR-4

Date: May 29, 2014