

memorandum

DATE: May 27, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Scott Nosal
Electrical Engineer – TELC-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Install grounding at Asarco and Troy substation yards

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

Location: Township 31 North, Range 33 West, Section 19; Lincoln County, Montana

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to upgrade grounding at its Asarco and Troy substations. The proposed project will consist of digging a trench one-foot-wide by two-feet-deep by 50-feet-long and installing two runs of #2/0 conductor inside schedule 80 conduit. The grounding #2/0 conductor will connect the switch platform at structure 32/1 to the low resistance ground mat located at the Asarco and Troy substation yards. This upgrade is required to provide proper operation of the breakers should a fault occur and provide electrical safety to the substation operator during switching operations. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical 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.

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: _____

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

Concur: */s/ Katherine S. Pierce* _____

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: *May 27, 2014* _____

Attachments:

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

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Asarco and Troy Substations Grounding Project

Work Order #: 351843

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 Cultural surveys were previously performed in the project area during the Libby-Troy Rebuild project. No Cultural or Historic issues were identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Bull trout and white sturgeon are located within 0.5 miles of the project area. The project does not have the potential to affect or disturb listed fish species or their habitat as the project area is located approximately 0.29 miles from the Kootenai River and there is no direct pathway to the river body. No other listed species are present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Surface waters are not located near the project area.	<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 type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael A. Rosales

Date: 5/21/2014