

memorandum

DATE: August 18, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Gary Beck
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Chehalis-Covington No. 1 Structure 5/4 Footing Replacement

PP&A Project No.: 3,027

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

Location: Lewis County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Olympia District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes replace the steel support footings on structure 5/4 of the Chehalis-Covington No. 1 230-kilovolt transmission line. The footings are severely deteriorated and may affect the structural integrity of the tower. The project includes suspension of the existing tower, unbolting and excavation of the old footings, replacement in-kind of the footings, and site restoration.

Soil will be removed from around each of the tower legs to expose and replace the footings. The soil is previously disturbed and is a mixture of native and non-native specified material from the original footing installation.

The structure is located in the open, cleared right-of-way corridor on flat ground. No road improvements are proposed for this project.

The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the subject transmission line to minimize risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region. The proposed work is scheduled for the summer of 2014. 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.

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 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:

Greg P. Tippetts

Olympia District Environmental Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 18, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chehalis-Covington No. 1 Structure 5/4 Footing Replacement

Work Order #: 00351327

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 Proposed action will occur within the previously excavated and filled existing structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Project access will use existing access roads and landings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 – Visual Impacts - existing facilities, in-kind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Greg Tippetts

Date: 8/13/2014

Greg P. Tippetts, KEPR/Olympia