

memorandum

DATE: July 28, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Molly Kovaka
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: North Bend Communication Site Engine Generator Replacement

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

Location: Rattlesnake Mountain, King County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to maintain its North Bend communication site by replacing the existing engine generator, the associated controls and ventilation system, the existing propane tanks, and underground propane lines that connect the tank to the engine generator. BPA's contractor would replace (furnish and install) the existing propane tanks with two 1,000-gallon tanks. Installation of the new tanks would require creating four concrete footings to support the tanks. Workers would place these footings in excavated trenches measuring 2.5-feet-wide by 2-feet-deep by 4-feet-long. They would remove the footings from the existing tanks and backfill the holes with crushed rock. BPA's contractor would also remove all existing underground propane piping, install new piping from the tanks into the building, and connect the piping to the new engine generator. To install the underground piping, workers would dig a 2-foot-wide by 2-foot-deep by 20-foot-long trench from the propane tanks to the radio station building. The contractor would restore the yard grade and replace any disturbed yard rock.

The proposed project area is located entirely within the fence of the existing communication site yard. During the original construction of the communication site, the entire area within the fenced yard was excavated, leveled, and rocked. Within in the fenced area, BPA regularly sprays the yard with an approved broad-spectrum herbicide, which eliminates all vegetation.

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/ Justin T. Moffett
Justin T. Moffett
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 28, 2014

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: North Bend Communication Site Engine Generator Replacement

Work Order #: 00345232

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 Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) issued concurrence on BPA's determination of no effect on June 30, 2014.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Justin Moffett

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