

memorandum

DATE: July 7, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Olga Hagensen
Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Monroe-Custer Miles 38 and 55-58 Access Road Improvements

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

Location: Skagit County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to conduct maintenance on selected sections of existing BPA easement access roads within the Monroe-Custer 500-kilovolt right-of-way (ROW). The first maintenance section, near Mount Vernon, Washington, begins at structure 38/2 and ends at structure 38/4. The second section is approximately 16 miles to the north and spans structures 55/3 to 58/5. The access road traverses mostly privately owned lands and a few parcels owned by the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Surrounding land use is rural residential and temperate forests, on relatively flat to moderately steep terrain. All work is located in Skagit County.

Project work includes, but is not limited to; blading, reshaping, adding rock, and the installation of cross-drain culverts, drain dips, ditch reliefs, waterbars, gates, and replacement of two culverts. Culverts were designed to meet the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) *Design of Road Culverts for Fish Passage* standards, as well as standards provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In-water work would be executed during the appropriate in-water work period and in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit issued for the project in June 2014. The proposed project area does not contain threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. No historical properties were identified in the project area during background research or a survey completed in May 2014. DAHP concurrence with the BPA determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" was received on June 10, 2014 (DAHP 033114-17-BPA). No tribal comments were received concerning the project.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, April 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.

Based on the provisions 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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 7, 2014

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Monroe-Custer Miles 38 and 55-58 Access Road Improvements

Work Order #: 00332182

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 No historical properties were identified in the project APE during background research or a survey completed in May 2014. DAHP concurrence with the BPA determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" was received via letter dated June 10, 2014 (DAHP 033114-17-BPA). No tribal comments were received.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T& E species or habitat present at project locations. In-water work will be executed during appropriate in-water work period. Erosion and sediment control and work area isolation BMPs will be in place to prevent increased turbidity and turbid waters entering affected and neighboring streams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Project access road improvements include two culvert replacements in waters of the U.S. BPA submitted a JARPA to ACOE on March 10, 2014 (NWS-2014-254 and NWS-2014-288). Permit was approved in June, 2014. All work must be in accordance with the final NWP letter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Project includes the restoration/repair of access road damage via landslide. Erosion and sediment control and work area isolation BMPs will be in place to prevent increased turbidity and turbid waters entering affected and neighboring streams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmland impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

ACOE NWP Letter

WA DAHP Letter of Concurrence

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning

Date: June 18, 2014

Chad Browning, KEPR-Covington