

memorandum

DATE: September 11, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Steven Bailor
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Chemawa-Salem No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line access road maintenance

PP&A Project No.: 2,869

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

Location: Marion County, Oregon; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Salem District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance on a gravel access road in a two mile section of the Chemawa Salem No. 1 and No. 2 transmission line. The action includes grading and shaping of an existing rock roadway and installing or maintaining drainage features on a total length of access road up to 1200 feet. The road provides necessary access to the right-of-way (ROW) corridor and transmission line from structure 2\5 to structure 2\3. To maintain the transmission line at this location, rock may also be added to existing structure landings to maintain safe, level work surfaces. The open, cleared ROW corridor and access road is on moderate hills in private, forested property. This existing road will be maintained using access road construction and storm water best management practices. Cross drain culverts, drainage ditches and water bars will only be installed if drainages are dry, and within the existing road cut prism.

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. All work will be in accordance with the NESC 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:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce or Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 11, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chemawa-Salem No. 1 & No. 2 access road maintenance

Work Order #: 332215

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. The proposed action is considered to be routine access road maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage stormwater run-off and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified. | | |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The project location is within an historic management circle for Willamette Valley Prairie Species, however BPA surveys from 2009-2011 have confirmed lack of presence of any listed species or the potential for suitable habitat in the area. The project location is exclusively landscaped residential yards. The Project is not highly visible to any other listed species that may be present and will not impact dispersal habitat that may be used by any T&E species. Cross drain road culverts, drainage ditches and water bars will only be installed in dry drainage ditches. Claggett Creek, the only stream within proximity of the access road, is several hundred feet from Project site with significant vegetative buffer and no apparent surface channels to convey surface flows. Any exposed soil should be stabilized following road work. No effect. | | |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Areas of special designation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Claggett Cemetery is located adjacent to the project site. Surveying has been completed to avoid any historical features and to delineate access through the cemetery to the project location. | | |
| 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 List supporting documentation attached (if needed): | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Signed: /s/ Stuart Hugill, for

Date: September 11, 2014

Benjamin J. Tilley, KEP-Alvey