

memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Todd Wehner
Civil design / Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 Line bridge installation

PP&A Project No.: 2632

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

Location: Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace an undersized culvert with a bridge along an existing gravel access road to line structure 41/2 on the BPA Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 transmission line in Kittitas County, Washington. Project activities will be limited to the existing gravel access roadbed, where the culvert in the ephemeral Currier Creek drainage will be removed and replaced with a bridge that spans the drainage. Currier Creek has seasonal flows for only a few months a year, and will be dry during bridge installation. The undersized culvert restricts stream flow during spring freshets, resulting in flooding, erosion, and access road damage. The bridge is proposed to be installed in August-September 2014.

The proposed work is necessary to provide safe and reliable year round access to the transmission line corridor at this location. Year round access to the corridor will minimize the risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 22, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 Line bridge installation

Work Order #: 00332177

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 BPA completed Section 106 responsibilities for the undertaking including SHPO and tribal APE consultation, archaeological field survey, and final consultation. Final concurrence from WA SHPO received on 6/24/14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) BPA performed background research and site review for ESA listed or other sensitive species or resources. No T&E species, designated critical habitat, or other sensitive species were identified. A No Effect memo was completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands BPA submitted a JARPA to the US Army Corps of Engineers on 6/3/2014, and received verification of no permit required in a letter dated 8/14/2014. Bridge will be installed during dry season and improve crossing quality.	<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/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: 8/21/2014

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4