

Project title:	Keswick Substation New Access Road Project, Shasta County, CA		
Requested By:	Tish Saare	Mail Code :	N0217 Phone: 916-353-4526
Date Submitted:	4-24-2019	Date Required:	4-26-2019

Description of the Project:

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Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), is responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of federally owned and operated transmission lines throughout California. WAPA must inspect its lines and towers on a recurring basis to comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council and WAPA directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system.

Due to access issues experienced during the Carr Fire, WAPA proposes to acquire rights for emergency and occasional use from the southeast side of the Keswick Substation on an existing access road that goes to Keswick Dam Road. WAPA also proposes to conduct road repairs on this road in order to make entrance and egress onto Keswick Dam Road safer. This existing road is approximately 16 feet wide and about 13 feet long and crosses Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private land. Road repair would consist of removal of an oak tree that is currently blocking visibility of Keswick Dam Road, grading/blading approximately 0.01 acres at the location of the oak tree, and the addition of small rock/gravel to this graded area. The repairs would occur during the summer of 2019.

Location of the Project:

Between Keswick Dam Road and the Keswick Substation in Redding, Shasta County, California.

Action taken	
Note: All Documentation is Attached	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet	
 Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.	
_____	_____
Gerald Robbins	Date
Environment Supervisor	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved

CC: Requestor:	File Code:	Assigned to:	Project #:	Environmental Specialist: Tish Saare Date: 4-17-2019
Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION			Project Number:

Integral Elements

Project Title: Keswick Substation New Access Road Project, Shasta County, CA

Category of Action:

B1.13: Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendixes A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders.
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities.
 - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products preexisting in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or
 - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B (4)).
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
3. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), Western has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, Western has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action meets the above regulatory criteria and there are no significant adverse environmental effects associated with this action.



**Western Area Power Administration,
SIERRA NEVADA REGION
NEPA Attachment Sheet**

**Project
Number:**

PROJECT TITLE:

Keswick Substation New Access Road Project, Shasta County, CA

REVIEW ACTION AND RESULTS

Due to access issues experienced during the Carr Fire, WAPA proposes to acquire rights for emergency and occasional use from the southeast side of the Keswick Substation and conduct road repairs at the entrance of this road. Repairs include removal of an oak tree, and grading/blading and graveling of the tree removal location.

Habitat was reviewed for potential to harbor special-status species, and an on-site survey for biological resources was conducted. No sensitive biological resources were identified in the review or in the survey. Conservation measures are prescribed for biological and cultural features below.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project area is in an urban/oak habitat and consists primarily of an existing dirt access road.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

If the project occurs during the nesting season (January 1-September 15), a survey will be completed no more than three weeks prior to the project to ensure no active nests exist in the tree to be removed or in any affected area.

AVOIDANCE MEASURES:

Should an active nest be discovered, the qualified biologist will establish an appropriate buffer zone (in which O&M activity is not allowed) to avoid disturbance in the vicinity of the nest. Maintenance activities will not take place until the biologist has determined that the nestlings have fledged or that maintenance activities will not adversely affect adults or newly fledged young.

Alternatively, the qualified biologist will develop a monitoring/mitigation plan that permits the maintenance activity to continue in the vicinity of the nest while monitoring nesting activities to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS

- (1) **CULTURAL INFORMATION:** The area of the tree removal and minor grading for the access road is highly disturbed by the previous construction of Keswick Dam Road and adjacent existing access road. This action is covered under 36 CFR Part 800.3 (a) (1), *Protection of Historic Properties:*

No Potential to cause effects. If an undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present, the agency official has not further obligations under section 106 or this part.

AIR QUALITY

- “This action is covered* under the Final Environmental Assessment for the North Area Right of Way Maintenance Program, and therefore will not pose significant impact to air quality.”
- Standard Operating Procedures for North Area ROW Maintenance will apply and are listed below.

AQ-SOP-1	Western will adhere to all requirements of those agencies having jurisdiction over air quality matters, and any necessary permits for operation and maintenance will be obtained.
AQ-SOP-2	Machinery and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition and older equipment will be replaced with equipment meeting more stringent California emission standards; appropriate emissions-control equipment will be maintained for vehicles and equipment, per California, EPA, and Western air-emission requirements.
AQ-SOP-3	Idle equipment will be shut down when not in active use; visible emissions from stationary generators will be controlled.
AQ-SOP-4	Dust-control measures will be implemented in road construction and maintenance, as needed. Trucks transporting loose material will be covered or maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard and will not create any visible dust emissions.
AQ-SOP-5	There will be no open burning of construction trash.
AQ-SOP-6	Grading activities will cease during periods of high winds (as determined by local air quality management districts).
AQ-SOP-7	Major operations will be avoided on days when the local Air Quality Index is expected to exceed 150.