

memorandum

DATE: November 28, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amit Sinha
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Longview Sectionalizing Breaker Upgrades

Budget Information: Work Order 00267646, Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.11 Installation of fencing... B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed area...

Location: Township 8 North, Range 2 West, Section 38 in Cowlitz County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to expand a 260-foot long section of its Longview Substation fence by 28 feet in order to accommodate the addition of a new sectionalizing breaker near bay 5, and to update an aging portion of the southeast fence line. Construction would include removal of top soil to install subsurface substation equipment, fill of imported soil to match existing substation grade, and construction and operation of a new sectionalizing breaker inside the new fence line. An approximate 280-foot by 40-foot construction area outside of and immediately adjacent to the southeast fence line is expected as part of this project. The construction area has been disturbed by previous and ongoing transmission line construction and maintenance activities.

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.

On June 21, 2011, Turnstone Environmental Consultants performed a wetland delineation on BPA property east of the Longview Substation. A portion of the area surveyed was classified as Category IV wetland, the lowest rating for wetland function, due to previous disturbance and low hydrologic function. Based on information gathered in the wetland delineation report prepared for this project, it was determined that project activities would affect less than 0.1 acres of Category IV wetland provided that all construction staging and access takes place from within the existing substation yard.

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/ Claire Bingaman

Claire Bingaman

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Richard Yarde, for:

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 28, 2011

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. All standard erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
2. No construction activity (including excavation, temporary or permanent filling, staging of equipment, vegetation clearing, etc.) shall take place outside of the defined project area that may impact adjacent wetlands. Construction limits will be clearly marked during the project.
3. Fueling and vehicle maintenance should not take place where any spilled material may enter any natural or manmade drainage conveyance including ditches, catch basins and pipes. Drip pans and absorbents pads will be placed under any leaking construction equipment.
4. Construction vehicles will be equipped with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.
5. If archaeological material is encountered during the construction of the project, an Inadvertent Discovery Form will be filled out, an archaeologist will immediately be notified and work will be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Longview Sectionalizing Breaker Upgrades

Work Order #: 00267646, Task 03

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	<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 No construction activity (including excavation, temporary or permanent filling, staging of equipment, vegetation clearing, etc.) shall take place outside of the defined project area that may impact adjacent wetlands. Construction limits will be clearly marked during the project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Categorical Exclusion

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

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