

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: January 12, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Hall  
Customer Service Engineering – TPC-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Integration of Three Sisters Irrigation District Hydro Generation

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.7 Electronic equipment

**Location:** Township 15S, Range 10E, Sections 1&13; Deschutes County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In response to Three Sisters Irrigation District's (TSID) interconnection request, BPA proposes to integrate 800-kilowatts (kW) of hydro power into its balancing authority via Central Electric Cooperative's (CEC) Sisters 115-kilovolt (kV) Substation. TSID provides irrigation water to almost 8,000 acres of farming and ranching lands in central Oregon and proposes to install an irrigation drop structure near Watson Reservoir in Bend, Oregon to generate 800-kW of hydropower. To integrate this electrical output, BPA would install a rack mounted revenue meter to monitor generation output at the TSID hydro facility. TSID would provide a publicly switched telephone network phoneline for BPA to have access to this revenue meter as needed. All work would take place within buildings at the TSID and CEC facilities. There would be no ground disturbance or work in undeveloped areas.

**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 proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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/ Carolyn Sharp*  
Carolyn Sharp  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Richard Yarde*  
Richard Yarde  
Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: *January 12, 2012*

Attachement:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Interconnection of Three Sisters Irrigation District Hydro Generation

**Work Order #:** 00257303

**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"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<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 (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

Date: January 12, 2012

Carolyn Sharp, KEC-4

CSharp:cas:7692:1/10/2012