

memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amanda Williams
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Bell-Addy #1 Disconnect Switch Replacements

PP&A Project No: 1780

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Location: The project is located in Spokane and Stevens counties, Washington as listed below:

Span	Township	Range	Section	County
16/8 to 17/1	28N	42E	10	Spokane
18/9 to 19/1	29N	42E	34	Spokane
30/4 to 30/5	30N	41E	15	Stevens

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace three loop break disconnect switches on the Bell-Addy No. 1 115-kV transmission line. The switches scheduled for replacement are the Milan Tap located on structure 16/8, the Deer Park Tap located on structure 18/9, and the Loon Lake Tap located on structure 30/4.

For each new disconnect switch installation, a 3-pole H-frame dead end structure with guying and a steel lattice stand will be constructed. The dead end structures and steel lattice stand will be placed mid-span and ahead on line of structures 16/8, 18/9, and 30/4. All three deadend structures will be offset from the current centerline of the transmission line. Replacement of disconnect switch equipment is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the transmission line system.

The old switch equipment will be removed from structures 16/8 (Milan Tap) and 30/4 (Loon Lake Tap). Jumpers will be installed on these two structures to complete the electrical circuit. The switch located on structure 18/9 will remain in place as part of the Auto Sectionalizing scheme.

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.

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:

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 12, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Bell-Addy #1 Disconnect Switch Replacements

Work Order #: 207136

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"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 106 consultation was initiated with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and affected Tribes on July 11, 2011. A cultural resource survey was conducted on August 15, 2011 and the findings report indicated that the proposed project would have a no effect on historic properties. On November 8, 2011, DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected. • In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Effects Determination for the proposed project was prepared and a determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat. 		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Michael Rosales

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