

# memorandum

DATE: February 11, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jennifer Gumm  
Project Manager – TPC/BELL-1

**Proposed Action:** Inland Power & Light 230 kilovolt (kV) Substation Project (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on November 17, 2011*)

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities in a Previously Disturbed Area.

**Location:** City of Mead, Spokane County, Washington.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to provide a tap point for Inland Power & Light (IP&L). In addition to the work described in the previous Categorical Exclusion:

- installation of two disconnect switch structures under BPA's Bell-Boundary 230-kV line,
- possible construction of a new wood pole dead-end transmission line structure, and
- installation of new metering equipment within IP&L's new Day Mt. Spokane Substation control house,

BPA proposes to install underground conduit path and fiber cable from the BPA fiber vault near tower 5/5 to IP&L control house to enable SCADA communication array.

**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.

A BPA contract archeologist conducted background research on the natural and cultural landscape of the project area using the Washington records database. No historic sites were found within a mile of the APE and an archeological field survey confirmed that no historic properties will be affected as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, it was **BPA's determination that no historic properties will be affected** as a result of the proposed project. On October 17, 2011, BPA sent letters along with a copy of the cultural resources report and findings to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation. In a letter dated October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project. On November 2, 2012, the Spokane Tribe sent a letter to BPA stating that after doing additional research, no cultural resources have been identified and agreeing with BPA's determination. No response was received from the Colville Tribe.

A review of the Spokane County, Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species recorded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicated the potential presence of two plant species; the Spalding's silene (*Silene spaldingii*) and the Ute ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). The lack of water features confirmed the absence of other ESA-listed species and plants throughout the project area. Pursuant to its obligations under the ESA, BPA has made a determination of no effect on those two ESA-listed plant species based on lack of habitat within the project area which is heavily impacted by urban residential development on a BPA ROW.

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/ Daniel A. Gambetta  
Daniel A. Gambetta  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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