

memorandum

DATE: September 11, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mica Bandurraga
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road maintenance and improvement on the Minidoka Power House – Unity No. 1 transmission line

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Location:

Line Corridor	Structures	TRS	County, State	Ownership
Minidoka Power House – Unity No. 1	12/5 – 12/6	10N, 25E, Section 28	Cassia County, Idaho	Private

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to improve a 75 foot access road connection from the Idaho 81 Bypass to an existing access road. Access road maintenance will include blading and rocking over a 400 foot section of the existing access road from structures 12/5 to 12/6. Ownership along the corridor consists of private rangeland.

The roadwork is needed to improve access for crews that will be maintaining the transmission line and towers within the transmission line corridor. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands.

The project includes but is not limited to:

- Improving a 75 foot long, 14 foot wide access road
- Reshaping, grading, and compacting existing road surfaces and landing
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock
- Constructing or reconditioning of water bars, drain dips, and outlet ditches

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:

Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 11, 2014

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Access Road Maintenance and Construction on the Minidoka Power House – Unity No. 1 Transmission Line

Work Order #: 113522

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work to be performed within existing previously disturbed construction foot prints. ▪ 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. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The project area is outside of the National Scenic Area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No health and safety issues are present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmlands are present in the project area. Those farmlands that are present will be available for use based on project design. BPA has worked with the landowner to maintain use of the land.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Frederick J. Walasavage
 Frederick J. Walasavage
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: September 10, 2014