

memorandum

DATE: September 8, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Semrau
Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Rogue-Gold Beach Transmission Line Access Road Improvement Project

PP&A Project No.: 2,850

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

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: The proposed project is located in the BPA Eugene District in Curry County, Oregon. The legal description of the project area is Township 36S, Range 14W, Section 30. The project area is located near rural residential, private timber, and industrial (rock pit) lands overlooking the Rogue River.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct road improvement activities along approximately 3,950 feet of access road. In addition, approximately 450 feet of new construction would be required. The proposed project would improve approximately 3,950 feet and construct approximately 450 feet of access road from North Bank Rogue River Road to the Rogue-Gold Beach #1 and #2 transmission line rights-of-way (ROW). The access road would be improved/constructed to BPA specifications, using conventional methods for grading and shaping the road surface, resulting in an approximately 20 foot total disturbed width (14 foot permanent travel surface). The road would be composed of 3 inch minus base rock and 1.5-inch-minus surface rock. In some areas, a layer of geotextile may be used to separate the rock from the native substrate. Additional width may be necessary on corners to allow sufficient turning radius for typical transmission line equipment. Three small drainages would be crossed, each requiring the installation of a 24 inch diameter, 30 foot length drainage culvert. One light-duty gate would also be installed. General road drainage would be addressed through a combination of ditches, cross-drains, out-sloping, water bars, rolling drain dips, etc. Disturbed soils would be stabilized with an appropriate seed mix and mulch.

Equipment that would likely be used for this project, and that would be likely to disturb the ground, would include a combination of the following: a dump truck, a bulldozer, a backhoe, an excavator, a motor grader, a rolling compactor, and work trucks.

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. 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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 8, 2014

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

The following project conditions and conservation measures would be implemented for this project:

1. Vehicles and construction equipment are not allowed off of access roads or staging areas.
2. Erosion and sediment control devices must be installed according to manufacturer instructions or the Western Washington Stormwater Manual prior to ground disturbing activities, and in such a manner as to insure that sediment and sediment laden water do not enter waterbodies or wetlands, or violate applicable water standards.
3. Discharge or placement of fill, in water bodies and wetlands identified in the project area is permitted under Nationwide Permit 12. All discharges and placement of fill must be in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers general and regional conditions; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality water quality conditions; and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) standard Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) coastal zone conditions.
4. Spill containment and cleanup materials shall be readily available in construction equipment, staging areas, and at work sites. Fire extinguishers, shovels, and clearly marked spill kits shall be available at these locations. Any spill response materials used shall be replaced within 24 hours.
5. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds and other contaminants, all vehicles and equipment must be clean (e.g. power washed) and inspected to ensure they are free of soil, mud, seeds, plant parts, and petroleum products prior to entering project areas, waterways, and/or when moving from a weed-infested area to an area that is not weed-infested.
6. Seed/mulch/fertilize all disturbed areas with an appropriate seed mix and method according to the procedures listed in the Western Washington Stormwater Manual, BMP C120 and C121, that takes into account site conditions and future phases of construction. With the exception of landowner-required seed mixes, substitutions to the recommended seed mixes must be approved by the BPA Environmental Lead. Use manufacturer-recommended seeding rates appropriate for the means of application. All seed mixes, mulches, and non-vegetative erosion controls must be "Certified Noxious Weed Free."
7. No cultural resources were identified in the project area; however, an Inadvertent Discovery Protocol has been prepared for this project.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Rogue-Gold Beach Transmission Line Access Road Improvement Project

Work Order #: 329388

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 No cultural resources were identified in the project area; however, an Inadvertent Discovery Protocol has been prepared for this project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Known populations of marbled murrelet and critical habitat, loggerhead sea turtle, western snowy plover and critical habitat, green sea turtle and critical habitat, leatherback sea turtle and critical habitat, olive Ridley sea turtle, western lily, water howellia, Fender's blue butterfly and critical habitat. Bradshaw's desert-parsley, Cook's lomatium and critical habitat, Kincaid's lupine and critical habitat, Canada lynx and critical habitat, Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho and critical habitat, short-tailed albatross, and northern spotted owl and critical habitat occur far outside of the project areas. Further, the ROW nature of the project areas does not typically provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned terrestrial species or their critical habitat. Streams in the project area are not fish-bearing; however, Best Management Practices would be installed such that project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. For the above reasons, it was determined that this project would have "No Effect" on these listed species or their critical habitat. This project would also have "No Effect" on Essential Fish Habitat.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Discharge or placement of fill, in water bodies and wetlands identified in the project area is permitted under Nationwide Permit 12 (no pre-construction notification or compensatory mitigation is required due to the small extent of impacts). All discharges and placement of fill must be in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers general and regional conditions; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality water quality conditions; and Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) standard Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) Coastal Zone conditions. The project meets the exemption criteria under the Oregon Removal/Fill regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Coastal Zone – On 8/25/2014, the Curry County Planning Department determined that this project is consistent with the comprehensive plan and land use regulations.	<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):

Signed: /s/ Oden Jahn

Date: 9/3/2014

Oden Jahn, KEPR-4