

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 28, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jonathan Malmberg
Project Manager – TETQ-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Maintenance along sections of the access road leading to Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Garrison Substation

PP&A Project No.: 2609

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance. B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines.

Location: As identified in table below:

Township	Range	Section	County
9N	11W	14, 13, 24	Powell
9N	10W	19, 30, 20	Powell

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes repairing a corrugated metal pipe end; making minor asphalt repairs; and grading, shaping, compacting, and placing road aggregate on 20,005 linear feet of gravel road. A magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) binding agent will be included in the road aggregate as well as applied during roadwork to reduce dust during road maintenance activities. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism and the existing road easement width of 20 feet. The proposed maintenance activities are described in detail below:

Old Stage Road, asphalt segment

Remove damaged section of asphalt and underlying subgrade material. Saw cut and remove the damaged end of the corrugated metal pipe (CMP). Install a new 24-inch CMP arch pipe extension using connection bands. Install and compact subgrade material and replace asphalt.

Old Stage Road, gravel segment

Grade, shape and compact approximately 5,570 linear feet of existing gravel road. The MgCl₂ binding agent solution will be placed directly on the road surface to reduce dust during road maintenance activities.

Garrison Substation Access Road

Grade, shape and compact approximately 14,435 linear feet of existing access road leading up to the substation gate. Approximately 9,816 tons of 1½ inch minus road aggregate, mixed with the MgCl₂ binding agent solution, will be installed and compacted on the road surface.

Land along the project area consists of industrial forest property, rural, agricultural and grazing lands. Primary uses for lands within the project area include timber production, grazing, game hunting and recreational uses. The project area crosses several streams, which should be considered fish bearing.

Appropriate erosion control devices will be installed prior to road work for erosion control and protection of nearby water resources. Any work performed in or near drainage conveyances will be performed during low flow or no flow conditions. There will be a minimum 50 foot no spray MgCl₂ application buffer at the stream crossings, which will be staked out by the COTR field inspector prior to road work. All standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) as per Montana Department of Transportation's Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs Manual will be utilized during all phases of road reconstruction and road improvements to prevent sedimentation and protection of any nearby water resources.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to BPA's transmission line system facilities, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

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

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 28, 2013

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Garrison Substation access road improvement

Work Order #: 297750

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 The records/literature review and pedestrian survey indicates that this undertaking will not affect historic properties. MT SHPO concurred with BPA's No Historic Properties Affected determination. The Blackfeet Tribe conducted a TCP investigation in the project area that resulted in a No Effect determination for TCPs. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will halt, the area will be secured, and a BPA archaeologist and your office will be notified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species are present within ½ mile of the project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Surface waters are present within ½ mile of the project. Erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) as per Montana Department of Transportation's Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs Manual will be utilized during all phases of road improvements to prevent sedimentation of any nearby water resources. No spray MgCl ₂ application buffers of 50 feet minimum at stream crossings will be staked out prior to road maintenance activities.	<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/ Michael A. Rosales

Date: May 24, 2013

Michael A. Rosales – KEPR-Bell-1