

memorandum

DATE: August 19, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amy Freel
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Franklin Substation Upgrades

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electrical power substations and interconnection facilities

Location: Pasco, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The BPA proposes to make improvements to the BPA fee-owned Franklin Substation located in southeastern Washington in order to bring the substation into compliance with BPA's minimum voltage guidelines. A shunt capacitor bank would be installed to provide voltage support. Project activities would include moving a temporary mobile capacitor bank, removing transformers, extending a 115-kilovolt (kV) bus, installing a new 115-kV capacitor bank, extending a cable trench, replacing a capacitor bank, modifying disconnect switches, adding a new tower and updating indoor communication systems. Two 50-foot, unguyed wood pole structures would be removed that were installed as a temporary line tap. The poles would be removed using a boom truck that pulls the pole for future reuse. The holes left by their removal would be refilled with native soils. An existing access road to the east and south of the substation would be used for construction access.

The planned activities would expand the substation by approximately 30,500 square feet. The expansion area would require minimal grading due to the flat topography of the site, extension of the substation yard groundmat and the addition of 3-4 inches of gravel. Project equipment may include, but would not necessarily be limited to: excavators, cranes, support vehicles and dump trucks.

Construction is scheduled to begin in Fall 2013 and take about five months.

Findings:

The project would not impact streams, wetlands or other water bodies.

Because of the previous disturbance on the BPA property, the minimal scale of the impact, and the lack of suitable habitat, there would be no effect to ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat.

A cultural resources survey conducted at the site on January 15, 2013 found no evidence that effects to cultural resources would occur as a result of this project. BPA consulted with the State of Washington Department of Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation regarding the proposed undertaking. BPA received concurrence with its

determination of no historic adverse effect on National Register eligible or listed historic and cultural resources from the DAHP on July 9, 2013. No response was received from the tribes.

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/ Carolyn Sharp
Carolyn Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: August 19, 2013

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Franklin Substation Upgrades

Work Order #: 305406

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 Concurrence received from WA DAHP 7/9/13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

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