

memorandum

DATE: September 13, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ben Deschuytter
Project Manager –TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Bell-Boundary Fiber Project (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on June 11, 2013*)

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 – Fiber optic cable

Location: Spokane and Pend Orielle counties, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In addition to the work described in the previous Categorical Exclusion, BPA proposes to use 44 temporary wood pole guard structures at 20 road and utility crossings. The guard structures would be set in the ground with an auger on either side of the road or utility to protect vehicles or utility lines while fiber is being strung. Guard structures have a 2-foot diameter and would be 50 feet to 70 feet tall. Once the fiber is strung, all guard structures would be removed and the corresponding holes refilled.

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.

/s/ Kara Hempy-Mayer
Kara Hempy-Mayer
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 13, 2013

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Provisions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. On USFS property, comply with all obligations and requirements set forth in the USFS land use permit and all other associated documentation pertaining to this project.
2. Have a BPA-provided archaeological monitor on site for all ground disturbing activities at guard structure locations.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Bell-Boundary Fiber Project (update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on June 11, 2013)

Work Order #: 291638

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 Cultural Monitors will be used at each guard structure location to ensure no cultural resources are impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) May affect, not likely to adversely affect Canada lynx and grizzly bear from construction disturbance. The addition of temporary guard structures for construction would not change the determination of effects made in the Biological Evaluation for the project, which received concurrence from USFWS on June 4, 2013 (see BPA 2013). Disturbance from construction activities has been accounted for, and there would be no additional loss of habitat since guard structures are temporary. No critical habitat or other federally listed species would be affected by the project (BPA 2013a, 2013b).	<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 Workers would follow BPA standards for Health and Safety during construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands Prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and prime farmland if irrigated all occur in the affected area, particularly in Spokane County and near Cusick and Newport, WA, in Pend Orielle County. However, negligible amounts of farmland would be affected in any one area by temporary guard structures.	<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"/>

Supporting Documentation:

BPA (Bonneville Power Administration). 2013a. Biological Assessment: Bonneville Power Administration – ‘D’ Analog System Retirement Project and Bell-Boundary Fiber Project. Portland, OR: BPA. 69 pp.

BPA (Bonneville Power Administration). 2013b. Digital Communication System Upgrade Project: ‘D’ Analog System Retirement and #WC Sonet Ring and Bell-Boundary Fiber Project (Endangered Species Act) No Effect Memo. Portland, OR: BPA. 13 pp.

Signed: /s/ Kara Hempy-Mayer

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