

memorandum

DATE: January 27, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amy Freel
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Naselle Tap Modification Loop into Driscoll Substation

Budget Information: Work order 231878 task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Construction or modification of electric power substations. B4.6 Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within previously developed area.

Location: Clatsop County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to expand the existing Driscoll Substation to accommodate a 115-kV ring bus and rebuild 2 ½ miles of the Allston-Astoria No. 1 line to double circuit to facilitate looping the Allston-Astoria No. 1 and Naselle Tap lines into the Driscoll Substation in Clatsop County, Oregon. Currently the Allston-Astoria No.1 and Naselle Tap 115-kV lines form a three-terminal line with eight taps. The rebuild of the Allston-Astoria No. 1 line as a double circuit would result in three new operating lines: Allston-Driscoll No. 2; Driscoll-Astoria No. 1; and Driscoll-Naselle No. 1. This line is being rebuilt to improve transmission system reliability in the Allston-Astoria area.

The proposed project would include:

- A 1-acre expansion of the existing Driscoll Substation to accommodate a new yard with 6 disconnect switches, 3 power circuit breakers and 3 towers. Expansion of the substation includes removal of trees and understory, site terracing with bulldozer, and rocking.
- Replacement of 2 ½ miles of H-Frame wood poles structures on the Allston-Astoria No. 1 line between 22/2 and 24/7. Most poles will be replaced in the same location, however 4 or 5 poles will be replaced in new locations. Replacement will involve a combination of structure types including single circuit H-frame wood poles, double circuit single steel poles, and double circuit lattice steel towers. Lattice tower structures require excavation with a backhoe 10 feet wide and 14 feet deep.
- Counterpoise will be added to 14 pole structures. Counterpoise requires excavation with a backhoe 25 feet on each side of the pole, 3 feet wide and up to 14 feet deep. Also replaced would be guy wires if they are present on the structure.

- Installation of three new H-frame wood pole structures and 3 acres of tree removal approximately 600 feet south of the substation. All tree removal will involve hand cutting at the stump, cutting trees into logs, and skidding logs to a loading site with a rubber tired tractor. Work to be done by a contract timber operator in late spring or early summer when conditions are drier.
- Excavation of 12 -14 geotechnical test pits with a backhoe 15 feet long, 3 feet wide and 12 feet deep.
- Removal of a quarter acre of trees outside of BPA's current ROW to accommodate a short section of line relocation.
- Removal of the Naselle Tap switches near structure 24/6 and installation of ½ mile of overhead ground will be installed.
- Improvement (widen, regrade and rock) of approximately 400 feet of existing access roads and build approximately 600 feet of new spur roads to structures.

Equipment used to accomplish the proposed rebuild could include: bucket trucks, bulldozers, conductor reel/tensioner machines, excavators, rock trucks, road graders, water trucks, and a crane. BPA proposes to begin construction in spring 2010 with project completion by October 1, 2010.

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). 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, 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, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

Pursuant to its obligation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) BPA initiated consultation with the Oregon Preservation Office (SHPO). Background research conducted by BPA indicated that there are no previously recorded archaeological resources located within a mile of the project area, and no cultural materials were observed on the surface or in a shovel test probes during the field surveys of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) on December 7, 8 and 9th. BPA sent letters, including a copy of the cultural resources report stating the findings, to the Oregon SHPO and two area tribes. Based on the results of the survey and background research, BPA made a determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project. The Oregon SHPO concurred with this determination on December 3, 2009 and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde concurred on January 21, 2010. BPA has not heard from the Siletz tribe.

A review of the Clatsop County, Oregon federally listed species recorded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Office (NOAA Fisheries) indicated that Columbian white tailed deer, Oregon silverspot butterfly, marbled murrelet, Northern spotted owl, Western snowy plover, brown pelican, Nelson's checker mallow, Lower Columbia River chinook salmon, Columbia River chum salmon, and Columbia River coho salmon may occur within the proposed project area. Designated critical habitat is listed for Clatsop County for Oregon silverspot butterfly, marbled murrelet, Northern spotted owl, Western snowy plover, Lower Columbia River chinook salmon, and Columbia River chum salmon and designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for chinook and coho salmon. Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of no effect on any listed species, critical habitat, or EFH based on lack of habitat within the project area, species occurring outside the range of the project, and the project activities not impacting listed species habitat. BPA prepared a "No Effect" memorandum for the record.

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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Stolz

Jennifer Stolz

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: January 27, 2010

Attachments:

Provisions

Clearance Checklist

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted, and BPA will consult with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer and the BPA Archaeologist.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices will be used for any ground disturbance or road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. No in-stream work. All ground disturbing work, refueling of vehicles and vehicle maintenance should not take place where any spilled material may enter any natural or manmade drainage conveyance including ditches, catch basins, and pipes. Drip pans and absorbent pads will be placed under all leaking construction equipment.
4. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials.
5. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and Federal requirements. Immediately notify the KEP Environmental Lead in the event of a spill or release to the environment.
6. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not precede until the KEP Environmental lead for this project can evaluate those changes.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Naselle Tap Modification Loop into Driscoll Substation

Budget Number: Work Order 231878, task 03

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	X	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources BPA determined the project would have no effect on historic properties or cultural resources based on a review of the line's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and a field survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE).	X	
2. T & E Species or their habitat(s) BPA determined that the proposed project, as designed, would not impact ESA-listed species or EFH. Therefore, a no effect determination was made for federally listed, threatened and endangered species.	X	
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect to floodplains or wetlands.	X	
4. Areas of special designation No areas of special designation are present within the proposed project.	X	
5. Health & safety	X	
6. Prime agricultural lands	X	
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	Yes	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X	

Note: Supporting documentation is in the official project file.

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Stolz

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