

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 10, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amit Sinha
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Transmission, Fiber, and Relay Upgrades at Cowlitz, Longview Annex, and Cardwell Substations

Budget Information: Work Order 00004866, Task 04

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area....

Location: Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Cowlitz County PUD (CCPUD) is in the process of upgrading their 69-kV system to 115-kV, and has requested that BPA upgrade transmission, fiber, and relay infrastructure within BPA's Cowlitz, Longview Annex, and Cardwell substations. Construction activities at each substation would include the following:

Cowlitz Substation

BPA would be responsible for the installation of new relays and a new underground fiber route at its Cowlitz Substation to accommodate CCPUD's planned upgrades. The new fiber route would run from the substation control house to an existing BPA communications vault located within the substation yard. From there, an approximately 3 foot wide by 4 foot deep trench would run to the BPA/CCPUD common substation fence approximately 6 feet from the existing vault.

Longview Substation Annex

BPA would be responsible for installation of new relays and a new underground fiber route (including a new underground fiber vault and conduit) from the drive entrance at BPA's Longview Substation Annex to the existing CV4A vault, then along the north edge of the Annex to a new vault structure to be placed on the northeast corner of the existing substation gravel pad. From the new vault structure, BPA would directionally drill across a partially disturbed parcel adjacent to the Longview Annex, reaching an existing BPA vault approximately 15 feet north of the highway where an existing conduit would accommodate a new fiber route to the Longview Substation located across Industrial Way.

Cardwell Substation

BPA would be responsible for the installation of new relays, and a new underground fiber route (including new underground fiber vaults and conduit) at its Cardwell Substation to accommodate CCPUD's upgrades. The fiber route would run from an existing CCPUD distribution pole on the southeast portion of BPA's fee-owned property where it would then be dropped into a new fiber vault structure adjacent to the existing pole. An approximately 3 foot wide by 4 foot deep trench leading to the Cardwell control house would accommodate the new fiber and relays.

All proposed construction would include excavation and fill work along a previously excavated area within BPA's existing ROW.

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.

BPA cultural resources staff determined that the undertaking would have no affect on historic properties. BPA completed a cultural resource report and received concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office in a letter dated April July 23, 2010. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe also concurred, with a request that inadvertent discovery language be appended as a provision (see attachment). No documented cases of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed terrestrial species were identified within one mile of the project area and habitat for listed ESA species does not exist in or adjacent to the project area.

BPA identified potential waters of the United States (U.S.), as defined in 33 CFR 328.3, through National Wetland Inventory Database and field reconnaissance surveys. Potential waters of the U.S. identified included a freshwater palustrine emergent wetland on the eastern edge of the

Longview Substation Annex. BPA developed provisions that direct BPA's contractor to directionally bore all potential water of the U.S. crossings to reduce potential impacts (see attached).

Based on the provisions identified in the attachment(s), the 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/ Claire D. Bingaman

Claire D. Bingaman

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: August 11, 2010

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

- All potential water of the U.S. crossings will be directionally drilled.
- In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during the implementation of this project, a BPA archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Washington DAHP and the appropriate Tribes will be notified of any future findings.
- All waste/trash generated during construction will be collected, removed, and disposed legally off-site.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Bonneville Power Administration's Transmission, Fiber, and Relay Upgrades at Cowlitz, Longview Annex, and Cardwell Substations.

Budget Number: Work Order 00004866, Task 04

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

Environmental Resources	No	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during the implementation of this project, a BPA archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Washington DAHP and the appropriate Tribes will be notified of any future findings.	x	
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	x	
3. Floodplains or wetlands All potential water of the U.S. crossings will be directionally drilled.		x
4. Areas of special designation	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	x	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	x	

Note: Supporting documentation is attached.

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

Date: August 12, 2010