

memorandum

DATE: February 15, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: John Brank
Customer Service Engineer – TPC-OLYMPIA

Proposed Action: Silver Creek Substation fiber project

Budget Information: Work Order 253198, Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 Adding fiber optic cable to transmission structures or burying fiber optic cable in existing transmission line rights of way.

Locations: Silver Creek Substation, Lewis County, Washington (T12N R2E SEC17)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Lewis County Public Utility District (PUD)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to connect a fiber optic cable from an existing Lewis County PUD transmission line into the BPA Silver Creek Substation in Lewis County, Washington. The fiber project is needed to increase transmission system communications reliability and protection, as well as to provide Lewis County PUD access to power metering data at the Substation.

To connect the fiber optic cable into the BPA Silver Creek Substation control house, Lewis County PUD would span an overhead fiber optic cable from an existing Lewis County PUD transmission line tower approximately 150 feet west of the substation yard to a new, single fiber optic wood-pole support near the substation fence. The single wood-pole would be up to 40 feet tall. BPA would install a fiber vault at the base of the new pole, which would contain an additional coil of fiber cable and splice(s), as needed. The fiber would then run back up the pole and span overhead into the substation yard. The site for the new wood pole and vault is located within the existing substation footprint, between the entry road and the perimeter fence.

Related communications and metering equipment for BPA and Lewis County PUD would be installed within the BPA Silver Creek Substation control house, as needed. BPA would also need to install related equipment within the existing BPA Chehalis Substation. All ground disturbing activities would occur within the previously leveled, graveled, and maintained substation footprint on BPA fee-owned property that is easily accessed via existing access roads. The proposed project is scheduled to be completed before October 2011.

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 will 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.

Work would occur adjacent to or within the existing, graveled substation footprint and control house; the vegetation is maintained and there is no habitat or special areas of interest that would be disturbed from this work. BPA has determined that there would be no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act. There would also be no impact to floodplains or wetlands, and no impact to areas of great visual value from the proposed project.

A background review of the project area was performed by a BPA contract archaeologist, who determined there would be no adverse effect on historic properties from the proposed project per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On January 11, 2011, BPA sent consultation letters and its determination to the Washington SHPO and potentially interested tribes for their review and comment. In a letter dated January 18, 2011, the Washington SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of no adverse effect on historic properties.

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.

/s/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 15, 2011

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:
 - Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the appropriate BPA project staff and a BPA archaeologist. In addition, all concerned Tribes and appropriate county, state, federal agencies should be notified.
 - Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
 - Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site.
 - Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. Any excess spoils resulting from excavation should be disposed of properly, per BPA's specifications. Also, all waste/trash generated during construction will be collected, removed, and disposed legally off-site.
4. Immediately notify the KEP environmental lead in the event of a spill or release to the environment. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. 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.
5. 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 proceed until the KEP environmental lead can evaluate those changes.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Silver Creek Substation fiber project

Work Order #: 253198, Task 03

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

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources SHPO concurrence on determination of no historic properties affected received from the WA SHPO on 1/18/2011.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species or their habitats are present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands will be impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation There are not any areas of special designation present in the project vicinity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety There are no known health and safety concerns from the proposed project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands The project will not have an impact on prime agricultural lands.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water There are not any special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities Typical construction wastes may be generated (oil and vehicle fuel). Control measures would help prevent accidental release of hazardous materials and clean-up and disposal would be according to applicable hazardous waste laws and regulations. PAC would be submitted, if necessary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other – Visual impacts The project will not impact areas of great visual value. The new monopole, fiber optic cable and associated equipment will be located on a site with existing transmission infrastructure and similar facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation is in the official project file.

Signed: /s/ Makary Hutson

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