

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 19, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum (Amended)

TO: Chad Hamel
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Sacajawea Substation – Ice Harbor Dam Fiber Project (Amended)

Budget Information: Work Order 00195734, Task 3

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.

Location: Walla Walla County, Washington
Township 9 North, Range 31 East, Sections 24, 25

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: An environmental clearance memorandum was prepared for the project on June 1, 2007. The original document has been amended in order to more fully describe the proposed work and changes to the original project description:

BPA proposes to install fiber optic cable between the BPA Sacajawea Substation and Ice Harbor Dam Powerhouse along the existing BPA Sacajawea Tap to Ice Harbor-Franklin No. 2, 115-kV transmission line. To splice the cable into the system, terminal equipment modifications would be needed at both end locations. The fiber optic cable would begin within the Sacajawea Substation control house, route out of the yard through existing buried conduit, then be strung for about 4,400 feet on top of existing transmission towers to Ice Harbor Dam. The cable would then run along the Dam Powerhouse and terminate in the existing communications room. A single fiber optic wood pole and two guy anchor supports would be installed to support the cable on a sharp corner of the existing line. The location of this new pole and guy anchors would be on existing BPA right-of-way on the southeast side of the transmission line, between existing structures 1/1 and 1/2. A few additional guy anchor supports may be added to existing transmission line structures to support the weight of the new fiber optic cable.

Installation of the fiber optic cable would require use of a staging area inside the substation yard for the cable stringing equipment, or in the existing parking lot adjacent to the substation. Existing access roads in the area are adequate to complete the proposed work.

The additions are part of power systems control communications improvements and upgrades to increase system reliability. The project is scheduled to be completed in summer 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 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.

Background research indicated that previous cultural surveys have been performed in the project vicinity, but no prehistoric or historic-era archaeological deposits were identified or recorded. It has been determined that the project, as designed, would have no effect on historic properties. The Washington SHPO concurred with BPA's determination on April 19, 2011.

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. No floodplains or wetlands would be impacted from installation of the fiber optic cable, and the project would not have any visual or aesthetic impacts.

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: May 19, 2011

Attachments:

Environmental Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ENVIRONMENTAL 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 a USACE archaeologist 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 to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews should be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated work areas and existing roads as much as possible.
4. Any excess spoils resulting from excavation should be disposed of properly, per BPA specifications. Also, all waste/trash generated during construction will be collected, removed, and disposed legally off-site.
5. 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.
6. No in-stream work. Any 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.
7. 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: Sacajawea Substation – Ice Harbor Dam Fiber Project

Work Order #: 00195734, Task 3

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 WA SHPO concurrence on determination of no historic properties affected received on 4/19/2011.	<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 and fiber will be located on sites with existing transmission infrastructure and similar facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):
Supporting documentation is in the official project file.

Signed: /s/ Makary Hutson

Date: May 19, 2011