

# memorandum

DATE: June 20, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joan Kendall  
Realty Specialist – TERR-3

**Proposed Action:** Acquisition and Disposition of Property

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** Appendix B1.24, Property transfers.

**Location:** Walla Walla County, WA; Yamhill County, OR

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to dispose of one property and acquire another property in its service territory:

Sacajawea-Sun Harbor: BPA proposes to dispose of 2.02 miles of its Sacajawea-Sun Harbor 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, associated easement rights, and its Sun Harbor Substation to the Columbia Rural Electric Association (CREA). The transmission line and substation are located in Walla Walla County, in eastern Washington. CREA requested the transfer of property based on potential load growth in CREA's service territory. With the sale of the substation to CREA, the line would become excess to BPA's needs. The sale is consistent with BPA's business strategy of focusing on grid facilities.

Cascade Steel Tap: BPA proposes to acquire the 3.8 mile Cascade Steel Tap 230-kV transmission line, including all easement rights, from McMinnville Water and Light (MWL). The Cascade Steel Tap runs from BPA's Carlton Substation to MWL's Cascade Steel Substation in Yamhill County in western Oregon. BPA has been operating and maintaining the property for 20 years under assumption of ownership. Upon acquisition, BPA would have official and permanent operations and maintenance control over the line. Acquisition is consistent with BPA's effort to simplify mixed ownership.

**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.

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/ Lisa MacLellan

Lisa MacLellan

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 20, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Acquisition and Disposition of Property

Work Order #: 00259408, 00245850

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 No historic properties affected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No species or habitat present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmland impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Lisa MacLellan

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