

memorandum

DATE: May 21, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: John Brank
Project Manager – TPC-OL

Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Tacoma Power Chehalis-Covington 230-kilovolt (kV) line/convert microwave signals from analog to digital

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic Equipment

Location: The BPA Chehalis-Covington project would take place at the Chehalis Substation, in Lewis County, WA, at the Covington Substation, in King County, WA and at Tacoma Power's (TPWR) South Tacoma Substation in Pierce County, WA.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action:

The BPA and TPWR have developed a joint plan to convert the microwave transfer trip signals on BPA's Chehalis-Covington 230-kV line, which includes the 230-kV tap line to TPWR's Cowlitz Substation, from analog to digital.

BPA would provide and install digital communication equipment (SEL-2595) at Chehalis and Covington substations, and would connect the digital communication equipment to associated relay protection equipment at each substation. BPA would also terminate four fiber pairs from the fiber optic cables between TPWR's Canyon and South Tacoma substations at South Tacoma Substation (two fibers from each cable) and would provide an optical port interface supporting two single mode fibers at South Tacoma Substation.

All work would take place within the substation control houses. No structural changes to the control houses would take place.

T&E Species and Critical Habitat – Because all work would be taking place within substation control houses, there is no chance that T&E species or Critical Habitat would be affected.

Cultural Resources – The substations where work would take place were constructed in the 1940's and are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed work would not require modification of the control house structure, interior walls, windows, light fixtures, etc. Equipment would be installed in existing racks and housings. BPA has determined that there would be No Historic Properties Affected.

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/ Douglas F. Corkran
Douglas F. Corkran
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 21, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: BPA Tacoma Power Chehalis-Covington 230-kV line/convert microwave signals from analog to digital

Work Order #: 00224834

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.

| <u>Environmental Resources</u> | <u>No Potential for Significance</u> | <u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Areas of special designation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Health & safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Prime or unique farmlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Special sources of water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Other (describe) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Douglas F. Corkran

Date: May 18, 2012