

memorandum

DATE: October 17, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Boise River Diversion Dam Powerplant Rehabilitation,
DOE/EIS-0183-SA-05

TO: Mark A. Jones
Program Analyst – PGF-6

Proposed Action:

Boise River Diversion Dam – Amendment to Capital Investment Sub-Agreement, Contract Number DE-MS79-94BP94618

Proposed By:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

Location:

Near Boise, in Ada County, Idaho

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to fund Reclamation's rehabilitation of the powerplant at the existing Boise River Diversion Dam (Diversion Dam) to use the water resource at Diversion Dam for electrical power production.

Analysis:

The Diversion Dam is located about 7 miles southeast of Boise, Idaho on the Boise River, about two miles downstream of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Lucky Peak Dam. Diversion Dam was built in 1912 and was operated for 70 years to supply power for irrigation pumping in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon, with surplus power marketed by BPA. The powerplant has been in ready-reserve status since 1982 due to lack of funding to rehabilitate equipment that was increasingly deteriorating. Upon resuming operation, the output of the powerplant would be used to help satisfy BPA's need for additional renewable resources to meet the load requirements of its customers in the southern Idaho area and to help relieve transmission constraints into Idaho. The output of the powerplant is expected to be up to 3.6 megawatts (MW).

Reclamation completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the powerplant rehabilitation in December, 2001; BPA was a cooperating agency. The Draft EA found:

- Although the level of the pool above Diversion Dam could be raised as much as 2.4 feet, there would be no effect on reservoir operation and river flows below Diversion Dam.
- There would be a minimal effect to the Boise River fishery below the dam.

- There would be no effect to the Federally-listed bull trout, Canada lynx, Ute ladies' tresses, and gray wolf. Also the rehabilitation may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the bald eagle. The US Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the determination. Snake and Columbia River anadromous fish species would not be affected.
- Although the historic integrity of the powerplant would be adversely affected, stipulations in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among Reclamation, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation provide for mitigation of the adverse effects of the rehabilitation on the dam's historic properties.
- Coordination between Reclamation and the Corps will allow operation of the Diversion Dam Powerplant at full capacity while minimizing any generation losses and economic impacts to Lucky Peak.
- The rehabilitation would be in conformance with local zoning and land uses.
- There would be no effect to Indian Trust Assets or on minority or low-income populations.

Public review and comment resulted in only minor factual corrections and clarifications in the document. Therefore, revisions to the Draft EA were included as an Errata sheet attached to the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a Final EA was not prepared. The FONSI found that the analysis of environmental impacts in the EA and consultation with interested and potentially affected agencies and organizations revealed that only "very minor or discountable" effects would occur to reservoir and river operations and fish, and there would be no adverse effect on threatened or endangered species. Adverse effects to the historic integrity of the powerplant would occur, but could be mitigated.

Renewable resources, including hydro, were analyzed in BPA's Resource Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0162, February 1993) and BPA's Business Plan Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0183, June 1995) and documented in the accompanying Records of Decision (RODs). BPA's Resource Programs ROD contemplated the use of renewable resources, including hydropower efficiency improvements, to meet load obligations. The Business Plan ROD, which identified the Administrator's decision to be market driven, committed BPA to offer power from renewable resources to its utility customers. The use of the output of the Diversion Dam Powerplant is consistent with both the Resource Programs and Business Plan RODs. The execution of this amendment to the Capital Investment Sub-Agreement itself would not have any environmental effects.

Findings

As documented in this Supplement Analysis, the potential impacts of amending the existing sub-agreement with Reclamation to provide for the rehabilitation of the Diversion Dam are within the scope of BPA's Resource Programs and Business Plan EISs and consistent with the Resource Programs and Business Plan RODs. The potential environmental impacts of rehabilitating the Diversion Dam have been adequately analyzed in NEPA documents for which BPA was a cooperating agency. The potential impacts of the project were determined to be very minor or discountable, or capable of being mitigated in accordance with a MOA. No

additional impacts would occur as a result of this amendment. There are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. Therefore, a supplement to the Business Plan EIS is not needed.

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce 10-21-2002

Katherine S. Pierce
Environmental Protection Specialist
Environment, Fish and Wildlife

Concur: /s/ Robert W. Beraud for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10-17-2002

Documentation on file:

United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (USDOE/BPA). 1995.
Business Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS-0183. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 1995. Business Plan Record of Decision. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 1993. Resource Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS-
0162. Portland, OR

USDOE/BPA. 1993. Resource Programs Record of Decision. Portland, OR

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USDOI/Reclamation). 2002.
Boise River Diversion Dam Powerplant Rehabilitation, Environmental Assessment. Boise,
Idaho.

USDOI/Reclamation. 2002. Boise River Diversion Dam Powerplant Rehabilitation Finding of
No Significant Impact. Boise, Idaho.

cc:

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Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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