

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: December 03, 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Claire Bingaman KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Theresa Berry  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Olympia Substation Bay Addition

**Budget Information:** WO# 00225362, Task 01

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including

**Location:** Thurston County, Washington, Township 18 North, Range 2 West, Section 32

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has requested a new 115-kV Point of Delivery from BPA's Olympia Substation. In order to accommodate this request, BPA will construct a new bay, including a circuit breaker and disconnect switches, within the Olympia Substation and terminate the last span of PSE's 115-kV line segment at a dead end structure within the substation. PSE will be responsible for all new or modified transmission lines necessary to facilitate the transmission line interconnection, specifically the placement of two wood poles on BPA fee-owned property. The two poles would be set approximately ten feet into the ground.

BPA would be responsible for all work within the substation fence. No construction within the substation fence is expected to require excavation below the existing gravel pad.

**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.

As part of the proposed action, BPA would conduct work within the existing disturbed electrical yard; there is no vegetation or suitable habitat for threatened or endangered species. The two wooden pole structures constructed by PSE would be located in an area that has previously been graveled and graded.

An historic evaluation for the Columbia Substation found that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project. The Washington State Historic Preservation Office concurred with these findings on October 26, 2009.

Based on the above information and the attached environmental checklist, 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/ Claire Bingaman

Claire Bingaman

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: December 3, 2009