

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 22, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cynthia Rounds - TPC-TPP-4
Project Manager

Proposed Action: The replacement of PacifiCorp's Kennewick – Dayton Hilltop microwave communication equipment.

Budget Information: N/A

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 “Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.” B4.6: “Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area...”

Location: Benton County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The single channel radio hop between the BPA-owned Kennewick Radio Station and PacifiCorp-owned Dayton Radio Station would be replaced by PacifiCorp with a 28 DS1 digital radio system. The path length is 62 miles, requiring a space diversity system to be installed. The radio at Dayton would be a Harris Constellation terminal, installed in rack D2 underneath the Hinkle Truepoint Radio. At Kennewick the main and diversity antennas would be Andrew UHX8-65, mounted on the BPA 120 foot tower, on leg 1 at height of 76 feet (main) and 36 feet (diversity). After cut-over to the new microwave path, the existing Dayton radio equipment in rack D5 and the existing antenna on the 80 foot tower would be removed.

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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusions referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: June 22, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Clearance Checklist

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Kennewick-Dayton Hilltop Communication Upgrade

Budget Number (Work Order #, Task #): N/A

Fish and Wildlife Project Number (for F&W projects only): NA

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	X	
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	X	
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X	
4. Areas of special designation	X	
5. Health & safety	X	
6. Prime agricultural lands	X	
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	X	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X	

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum Date: June 22, 2010