

memorandum

DATE: June 25, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ken Adamson
Project Manager – TELD-TTP-3

Proposed Action: Improvement of access roads on the Cougar-Thurston #1 115-kV and the Thurston-McKenzie #1 115-kV transmission lines

PP&A Project No.: 1679

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment... routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose.

Location: The project is located in Lane County, Oregon, in the Eugene District. The project activities will be conducted on the access roads leading to towers: 10\2-11\3, 11\6-14\5, 28\4-33\5, 34\2-35\3, and 38\1-38\5 on the Cougar-Thurston line and towers 2\1-2\5 on the Thurston-McKenzie line.

Township	Range	Section
16S	4E	31
16S	4E	36
17S	3E	1-4
17S	1E	7-8
17S	1E	13-16
17S	1E	18
17S	1E	20-21
17S	2W	21-23

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to improve existing access roads for the Cougar-Thurston and the Thurston-McKenzie transmission lines in Lane County, Oregon. The project includes blading, rocking, and installing proper drainage for the existing access roads that are degraded with rutting, erosion, cut bank destabilization, and improper surface water drainage characteristics. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be done in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code and BPA standards.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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 exclusion referenced above. We, therefore, determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Benjamin Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist – KEP-Alvey

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: June 25, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Access Road Improvement Project FY10 Cougar-Thurston #1

Work Order #: 219975 PP&A Project No.: 1679

Prepared by: Ben Tilley Routing: KEP-Alvey Date: 06/17/10

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

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
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"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No areas of special designation occur within the project locations. 		
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>