

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 4, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Creig Millen
Project Manager – TEC-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Chenoweth Substation 3G Radio Station Project

Budget Information: Work Order 00197213, Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities...

Location: Wasco County, Oregon (T2N, R13E, Sections 21 and 28)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to construct a 120-foot radio tower and antenna system at BPA's Chenoweth Substation in Wasco County, Oregon. The new tower will require a 20 x 20 foot expansion of the existing substation yard and will replace an existing 50-foot monopole radio tower at the site. Site preparation for the tower and related communications equipment will require excavation within a 35 x 35 foot area up to 4-feet deep, primarily in the existing electrical yard fill. Communication lines will be installed from the tower into the existing control house along a raised conduit waveguide on 8-foot support posts and additional communications equipment will be installed inside the control house. The existing substation yard has been previously graded and graveled, and no new access roads will be required. The new tower will be consistent with the existing transmission lines, towers, and industrial infrastructure in the area, and will not impact an area of great visual value.

BPA must vacate radio frequencies in the 1710-1755 MHz band to comply with a Federal law mandating reallocation of frequencies to be used for advanced wireless networks. The proposed work is required to transition the affected telecommunications systems onto new digital microwave radio frequencies or onto fiber optic infrastructure, and to ensure communications reliability by replacing outdated facilities. The radio equipment will be part of a radio hop linking several radio sites within the power systems control communications network for the BPA transmission system. The proposed project is scheduled to be completed and operating by winter 2010/2011.

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 will 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.

BPA has determined that there will be no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act. There will also be no impact to floodplains or wetlands as a result of the proposed project.

An historic evaluation of the existing substation and control house found that the facility is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Background research and a field survey of the entire project area did not identify any additional cultural resources, and it was determined that the proposed work will not have an adverse effect on the substation or related facilities. On July 2, 2010, BPA sent letters along with a copy of the cultural resources report and its determination of no adverse effect to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation for their review and comment. On July 28, 2010, the Oregon SHPO concurred with BPA's determination that the project will have no adverse effect to historic properties. No other comments were received.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson

Environmental Project Manager -KEC

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - -KEC

DATE: August 9, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Provisions

ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted, and BPA will consult with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and a BPA Archaeologist.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements. Immediately notify the KEP environmental lead in the event of a spill or release to the environment.
4. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not proceed until the KEP environmental lead for this project can evaluate those changes.