

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 7, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joyce Vaughn
Project Manager – TELP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Grandview-Red Mountain #1 Proposed Transmission Line Interconnection

Budget Information: WO# 0004866, Task 03

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

Location: Township 9 North, Range 26 East, Section 2 in Benton County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to construct a 115-kV tap point consisting of two 115-kV sectionalizing switches with loop breaking capability on the Grandview-Red Mountain #1 transmission line between structures 18/1 and 18/2 in order to accommodate an interconnection request by Benton Rural Electric Association (REA) for their Acord Substation development project. BPA would be responsible for revenue metering at the new Acord Substation, and for the tap, which would consist of two disconnect mounting structures bolted to two 8’x12’ concrete foundations approximately two feet deep. A wood pole deadend structure would be placed between the mounting structures, providing an attachment point for Benton’s 115-kV line. All proposed work would occur within existing BPA right-of-way.

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.

BPA surveyed the proposed project area on July 8, 2010 and found no evidence to indicate any effect to cultural resources would occur as a result the proposed project. Concurrence was received from the SHPO on July 29, 2010. No consulted tribes responded to the survey report and request for concurrence.

The project area is absent of water features, unique wildlife habitat, or other environmentally sensitive resources. Because of the previous disturbance and lack of habitat, no ESA species listed or proposed for listing are likely to be present. There will be no effect to floodplains or wetlands.

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 KEC-4
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 8, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Grandview-Red Mountain #1 Proposed Transmission Line Interconnection

Project #: WO# 0004866, Task 03

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

Date: September 7, 2010