

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: September 20, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Theresa Berry  
Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** McNary-Ross No. 1 Upgrade Project, Surface Impairment Removal

**PP&A Project No.:** 1876

**Categorical Exclusions 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:** Project activities would take place at five locations, identified in the table below:

Span	County	TRS	Span	County	TRS
33/3 to 33/4	Klickitat	T4N R23E SEC 09 & 10	113/3 to 114/1	Klickitat	T3N R11E SEC16
34/1 to 34/2	Klickitat	T4N R23E SEC09	157/4 to 158/1	Clark	T2N R04E SEC14
41/5 to 42/1	Klickitat	T4N R22E SEC32			

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to address five surface impairments that were identified on the 345-kV McNary-Ross No. 1 transmission line. At these locations, the distance from the conductor to the ground surface does not have adequate clearance for operation at 70°C. BPA proposes to re-shape the existing ground surface in these areas to achieve adequate clearance. The proposed work would allow BPA's McNary-Ross No. 1 transmission line to meet current National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards for operation at 70°C.

Span	Area of Potential Impact (ac)	Activity
33/3 to 33/4	1.36	133 cubic yards of soil would be removed from the surface impairment and placed adjacent to the site to the northwest.
34/1 to 34/2	0.96	178 cubic yards of soil would be removed from the surface impairment and placed adjacent to the site to the east.
41/5 to 42/1	5.08	801 cubic yards of soil would be removed from the surface impairment and placed adjacent to the site to the southwest.
113/3 to 114/1	1.62	296 cubic yards of soil would be removed from the surface impairment and placed adjacent to the site to the east.
157/4 to 158/1	1.37	2133 cubic yards of soil would be removed from the surface impairment and moved to a location adjacent to the existing access road approx. 900 feet to the east.

Following the excavation and placement of soil, all disturbed areas would be stabilized for erosion and sediment control, and revegetated with native grasses. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this

project, and would be likely to disturb the ground, would include a combination of the following: a dump truck, a bulldozer, a backhoe, an excavator, and work trucks.

**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, April 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 action with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impact [40 C.F.R. 1508(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 release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 20, 2011

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** McNary-Ross No. 1 Upgrade Project, Surface Impairment

**Work Order #:** 232278 **PP&A Project No.:** 1876

**Prepared by:** Oden Jahn **Routing:** KEPR-4 **Date:** 8/29/2011

**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 On September 20, 2011, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected". BPA received no response from the tribes. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and an environmental representative should be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Known populations of gray wolf, golden paintbrush, water howellia, Bradshaw's lomatium, bull trout, Ute ladies'-tresses and northern spotted owl occur far outside of the project areas. Further, the project areas do not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project areas are not adjacent to any recorded anadromous fish usage, and BMPs would be installed such that project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. It was determined that this project would have "No Effect" to T&E Species, or their habitat(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 A Gorge Permit is not required for this project. All sites are located outside of the Gorge NSA.	<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"/>