

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 24, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joan Kendall
Project Manager – TERR-3

Proposed Action: Acquisition of Cowlitz County Public Utility District's (CCPUD) 115-kV transmission line from BPA's Longview Substation to CCPUD's Washington Way Substation

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Location: Township 8 North, Range 3 West, Section 36, and Township 8 North, Range 2 West, Sections 31 and 32 in Cowlitz County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to acquire a 1.5 mile portion of CCPUD's existing Longview-Washington Way 115-kV transmission line in order to provide a parallel transmission path for its existing Longview-Cowlitz No. 1 transmission line and to comply with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)/Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) reliability standards.

In 2010, thermal overload conditions affected BPA's existing Longview-Cowlitz 115-kV No. 1 transmission line, impacting CCPUD's system at the time. BPA and CCPUD had previously developed a mitigation plan for such overloads, which are not allowed per NERC standards. The mitigation plan provides for a new 115-kV line circuit between BPA's Longview and Cowlitz Substation, providing a secondary 115-kV transmission path (circuit) for power to flow on. This new circuit would satisfy NERC/WECC standards. CCPUD has agreed to sell a portion of its 115-kV circuit, between Longview-Washington Way to BPA. BPA would be the transmission operator of the line while CCPUD would perform operations and maintenance and vegetation management on the line.

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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

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 McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce - KEC-4

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 24, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Acquisition of Cowlitz CPUD's 115-kV transmission line from BPA's Longview Substation to Cowlitz CPUD's Washington Way Substation

Work Order #: 283852, task 03

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and 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 or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signe: /s/ Claire McClory

Date: February 23, 2012