

memorandum

DATE: October 1, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dawneen Dostert
Project Manager – TERR-LMT

Proposed Action: Proposed Sale of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Fee Owned Property to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for Interstate On and Off Ramps

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

Location: Vancouver, Clark County, WA, Township 2 North, Range 2 East, Section 28 and 21, Willamette Meridian

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In response to a Land Use Review Request (LURR 20080504), BPA proposes to sell in fee 2.3 acres of land, located in Clark County, Washington, to WSDOT. The land consists of two strips within a residential area, located on either side of Interstate Highway 205 (I-205). WSDOT proposes to build I-205 on and off ramps on the land on either side of I-205. BPA would retain an easement for the land because it contains two transmission lines, both owned and operated by BPA. BPA would also need to move some access roads within the transmission line corridor.

The land that would be sold includes a portion of the transmission line corridor with the BPA Bonneville – Ross No. 1 and No. 2 230-kilovolt(kV) transmission lines, in the area between BPA lattice steel Structure 31/4, located east of I-205, and Structure 32/1, located west of I-205. NE 18th Street is immediately to the north of the transmission line right-of-way. BPA transmission line structures are not located within the land that would be sold.

BPA would need to relocate access roads (currently residential driveways) because the existing access roads would be destroyed by the highway project. West of I-205, the area where the driveway would be relocated is currently a maintained lawn next to a BPA lattice steel transmission structure. East of I-205, the area where the driveways would be relocated is currently vegetated with shrubs.

WSDOT Project Proposal – WSDOT is conducting separate environmental review of their highway project, which includes activities in addition to acquiring BPA fee owned lands. Information on the WSDOT proposal and its environmental review process is available from **Blane Kunihib**, WSDOT Vancouver Area Engineering Office, at 360-905-1503, or by e-mail at kunihib@wsdot.wa.gov.

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.

/s/ Kimberly R. St.Hilaire
Kimberly R. St.Hilaire
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: October 1, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Proposed Sale of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Fee Owned Property to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for Interstate-On and Off Ramps (LURR 20080504)

Work Order #: 00184006, Task 1

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.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Washington State Historic Preservation Officer concurred on July 23, 2012, with BPA's Determination of No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties; previous cultural survey for WSDOT confirmed no historic properties on site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Site review on May 2, 2012 confirmed that no habitat for rare plants or animals occurs on site or in the project vicinity, as determined by WSDOT June 2006 surveys; BPA determines there will be No Effect to species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Site reviews on May 2, 2012 by BPA staff and by WSDOT wetland scientist in 2007 and on June 20, 2012 confirmed that the project site and adjacent area is upland with no water resources, 100-year floodplains are not mapped on or near the project area	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:

- BPA No Effect Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species
- David Evans and Associates, Inc. Vegetation, Wildlife, and Fish Technical Memorandum: I-205/Mill Plain Exit (112th Connector(and I-205/Mill Plain to NE 18th Street Projects, Unpublished report prepared for WSDOT, June 2007

- David Evans and Associates, Inc. Final Section 4(f) Analysis Technical Memorandum: I-205/Mill Plain Exit (112th Connector(and I-205/Mill Plain to NE 18th Street Projects, Unpublished report prepared for WSDOT, May 2007
- David Evans and Associates, Inc. Water Resources Technical Memorandum: I-205/Mill Plain Exit (112th Connector(and I-205/Mill Plain to NE 18th Street Projects, Unpublished report prepared for WSDOT, June 2007
- Heritage Research Associates, Inc. Cultural Resources Discipline Report: I-205/Mill Plain Exit (112th Connector(and I-205/Mill Plain to NE 18th Street Projects, Unpublished report prepared for WSDOT, May 2007
- Kohl, T. Wetland Delineation Report: I-205/Mill Plain Exit (112th Connector(and I-205/Mill Plain to NE 18th Street Projects, Unpublished report prepared by WSDOT, March 2007
- Kohl, T. BPA Upland Data Points, Unpublished data sheets prepared by WSDOT, June 2012

Signed: /s/ Kimberly St.Hilaire

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