

United States Government
memorandum

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

DATE: September 16, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Joe Johnson
ROW Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV-Kalispell

Proposed Action: Swan Valley-Teton No. 1 and No. 2 Access Road Maintenance

Budget Information: Work Order #00113522

PP&A Project No.: 2785

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Location: Bonneville County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine road maintenance including reconstructing, grading, and shaping of roads, placing and compacting of rock surfacing, installation and maintenance of erosion control and water drainage features, and restoration of disturbed areas along existing access roads. The work involves approximately 2.5 total miles of road improvement work on roads leading to and along the subject transmission line right-of-way (ROW). The roadwork is needed to maintain existing road and reduce erosion and sediment. This will improve access for crews that will be maintaining the transmission line and towers within the transmission line corridors. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in any water body including streams, ponds, wetlands, etc.

Road maintenance work will occur on BPA acquired access roads both on and off the transmission line ROW associated with the following location:

Transmission Line	Line structures
Swan Valley-Teton No. 1 and No. 2	8/1 to 10/4

The project includes but is not limited to:

- Reshaping, grading and compacting existing road surfaces and turnouts
- Placing Geotextile Fabric
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock
- Constructing or reconditioning of water bars, drain dips and outlet ditches
- Cleaning cross drain culverts and ditches

Findings: The BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, 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 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.

The subject project areas occur on previously disturbed, filled, and maintained roads. No previously undisturbed areas will be disturbed and no new road sections will be constructed during this project. Based on this, BPA has determined the project will have “No Effect” on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act.

No threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or other sensitive areas are known to exist within the project areas. Based on this, 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.

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/ Andrew B. Chang

Andrew B. Chang

Biological Scientist, KEP

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 16, 2013

Attachment

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Swan Valley-Teton No 1 & 2 Access Road Maintenance

Work Order #: 113522

PP&A Project No.: 2785

Prepared by: Andrew Chang

Routing: KEP-4

Date: 9/12/13

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

- ESA Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Andrew B. Chang

Date: September 12, 2013

Andrew B. Chang, KEP-4