

# memorandum

DATE: April 2, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR/Pasco

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mark Korsness  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** B3S4-White Bluffs #1 and Benton-B3S4 #1 Transmission Line Reroute

**PP&A Project No.:** 2907

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

**Location:** Benton County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Pasco District. See table below for structure locations on the corresponding transmission lines:

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State
B3S4-White Bluffs #1	1/1	10N	28E	2	Benton, WA
	1/2				
Benton-B3S4 #1	6/9	10N	28E	2	Benton, WA
	6/10				

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to remove three transmission structures and relocate one structure on U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Hanford property in order to bypass a substation. As part of DOE-Hanford's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) clean-up project in the 300 Area of Hanford, DOE-Hanford will retire and remove its B3S4 Substation. BPA's B3S4-White Bluffs Transmission line and the Benton-B3S4 Transmission Line currently terminate at the B3S4 Substation. Consequently, with the removal of the substation, BPA would need to connect the two lines and bypass the former substation site. To accomplish this, BPA is proposing to remove three transmission line structures and relocate another structure. BPA would remove B3S4-White Bluffs structures 1/1 and 1/2 and Benton-B3S4 structure 6/10. BPA would relocate Benton-B3S4 structure 6/9 so the transmission line reroute can be completed with the current B3S4-White Bluffs structure 1/3. The rerouted transmission line would be renamed the Benton-White Bluffs Transmission Line. All the structures being removed or relocated are on DOE-Hanford property.

DOE-Hanford's action were reviewed under CERCLA and included relocation of the BPA structures that directly support the remedial action to clean up three waste sites as described in the Record of Decision for 300-FF2 and 300-FF5 issued in November 2013.

**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/ Philip W. Smith, for:*

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Shawn L. Barndt  
Environmental Scientist, Tri-Cities District

Concur: */s/ Stacy Mason*  
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Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: *April 2, 2014*

Attachments:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: B3S4-White Bluffs #1 and Benton-B3S4 #1 Transmission Line Reroute

Work Order #: 348953

**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 Follow DOE-Hanford and Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</li> <li>▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO, project manager and the environmental project lead must be notified.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Follow DOE-Hanford and Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WCH will need to conduct nest surveys prior to work in project area</li> <li>▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Follow DOE-Hanford and Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work site is adjacent to a CERCLA cleanup site. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Updated WCH Interoffice Memorandum (Ecological and Cultural Resource Reviews for Remediation of the 300-7 and 300-9 Waste Burial Grounds in the 300 Area – dated March 19, 2014

Signed: /s/ Shawn L. Barndt

Date: April 1, 2014

Shawn L. Barndt/KEPR-Pasco