

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 14, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Richard Ross
Civil Design – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Chehalis-Olympia No. 1 access road maintenance

PP&A Project No.: 2,902

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

Location: Lewis County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Olympia District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to maintain existing gravel access roads along the Chehalis-Olympia No. 1 transmission line. The project involves routine access road maintenance, including shaping, rocking, and compacting the existing road surface, on a total length of up to six miles of existing gravel access roads from the 7th to the 11th miles of the transmission line corridor. BPA transmission line access roads provide necessary access to the right-of-way (ROW) corridor and within the ROW between structures. To safely operate and maintain the transmission line at this location, rock may also be added to some existing line structure landings to provide safe, level work surfaces. The open, cleared ROW corridor traverses flat to moderately hilly terrain over privately-owned properties, the majority of which are owned and managed for timber production.

The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line to minimize risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region. The proposed work is scheduled to occur prior to line work outages in May-June 2014. All maintenance work will be performed in accordance with BPA access road standards.

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.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value and no project sites are within a governmentally designated scenic area.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson

Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 14, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Chehalis-Olympia No. 1 access road maintenance

Work Order #: 342998

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such historic properties are located in the area of potential effects. Proposed action will be limited to routine maintenance on existing, gravel access road prisms and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Existing condition of rock access road prism and landings were confirmed via site visit on 4/25/14. Gravel will be installed on top of geotextile fabric in any wet areas or similarly soft soils. No new access roads, landings or similar new non-maintenance disturbances are covered by this review.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No known T&E species were identified within 1-mile along the project areas. The routine access road work will not remove or effect any potential nesting, feeding or dispersal habitat for T&E species. No effect.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Routine road maintenance on existing roadbeds. Additional erosion and sediment controls must also be installed, if needed, to prevent any construction-related erosion or sediment run-off.		
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 – Visual Impacts - existing facilities, in-kind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
List supporting documentation attached (if needed):		

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: May 12, 2014

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4