

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: Naselle-Tarlett No. 1 access road maintenance

PP&A Project No.: 2,904

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

Location: Pacific County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Longview District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to maintain an existing access road in the 16th mile of the BPA Naselle-Tarlett No. 1 transmission line. The project involves routine access road maintenance, e.g. rocking and grading a total length of gravel access road of approximately 2,000 feet. The access road provides necessary access to the right-of-way (ROW) corridor and within the ROW between line structures 16/4 and 16/6. To safely operate and maintain the transmission line at this location, rock may also be added to existing structure landings to provide safe, level work surfaces at a few structures. The open, cleared ROW corridor is on a moderate upland slope, and the road approaching the corridor traverses along an upland side hill slope in forested, private property. The road terminates at structure 16/6, which is surrounded by wetlands and near a wildlife refuge. The existing landing and road will be maintained using construction best management practices, such as installing geotextile fabric prior to adding additional gravel.

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 during an outage in June 2014. All work will be in accordance with the NESC and BPA 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: Naselle-Tarlett No. 1 access road maintenance

Work Order #: 332186

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 maintenance on an existing, rocked access road bed and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. Existing rocked access road prism and landings were confirmed via site visit on 4/23/14. Danger wood poles will be replaced in-kind, consistent with current line, after the existing poles are removed.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The project area is not near known or suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat, project activities are similar to adjacent rural agricultural activities, will not impact any potential habitat, and will take place during the day. The Project is not highly visible to any other listed species that may be present in the nearby wildlife refuge, including the western snowy plover and the short-tailed albatross, and will not impact habitat that may be used by any T&E species. Discussed project and confirmed no effect with Willapa NWR project manager on 5/7/2014. No effect.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The access road work terminates at structure 16/6, which is surrounded on three sides by a grassy area and nearby wetland. All Project maintenance within the proximity of the wetland shall only occur on the existing landing pad, including the final 50 feet of the approach access road and the existing landing at the structure. The existing landing at the structures was confirmed during a site visit on 4/23/14. Geotextile fabric should be installed prior to addition of rock to the landing/access road at this location. Additional erosion and sediment controls must also be implemented, 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
Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4

Date: March 8, 2014