

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 14, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Olga Hagensen
Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Custer-Ingledow Access Road Improvements

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

Location: Whatcom County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct road maintenance on an existing BPA easement access road within the Custer-Ingledow 500-kilovolt right-of-way (ROW) from structures 9/4 to 9/6. The project includes routine access road maintenance, including shaping, rocking, and compacting the existing road surface. The access road stretches approximately 0.3 miles, mostly through privately-owned lands and one federal parcel (U.S./Canada border). Surrounding land use is rural residential and temperate forests, on a nearly level existing access road. The proposed project area does not contain threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. All work is located in Whatcom County.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, April 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.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 14, 2014

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Custer-Ingledow Structures 9/4 to 9/6 Access Road Improvements

Work Order #: 00332195

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 No historic properties affected. All road maintenance to occur on existing road bed. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species or habitat present at project locations. Erosion and sediment control and work area isolation Best Management Practices will be in place to prevent increased turbidity and turbid waters entering neighboring streams. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands impacted. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Areas of special designation None. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Health & safety None. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmland impacted. | <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):

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning

Date: May 8, 2014

Chad Browning, KEPR-Covington