

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 14, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Steve Scott
Lineman Foreman III - TFNF-Snohomish

Proposed Action: Snohomish-Beverly Park No. 3 and No. 4 Line Structure Replacements

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

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

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to perform routine wood pole replacements on two H-frame wood pole transmission line structures on the Snohomish-Beverly Park No. 3 and No. 4 115-kilovolt transmission lines in Snohomish, Washington. The two structures, structure 4/5 (No. 3 line) and 5/3 (No. 4 line), are both located in an existing, multiple-line shared right-of-way corridor on private property. The land use in the area is rural residential and agricultural, and this section of the transmission line corridor traverses relatively flat terrain between the Snohomish River and Puget Sound.

The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission lines to minimize risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region. The proposed work is scheduled to occur in August-September 2014.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson

Biological Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 14, 2014

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Snohomish Beverly Park #3 4/5, Snohomish Beverly Park #4 5/3

Work Order #: 00342851 (4/5) and 00342854 (5/3)

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 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. The proposed action is considered to be routine access road maintenance necessary to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage stormwater run-off and will be limited to maintenance on an existing access road cut and prism and structure footprints in the cleared transmission line ROW. The structures are easily accessible in an active farm field and rural-residential area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Erosion and sediment control and work area isolation BMP's should be used if necessary to prevent sediment discharge from site during and following construction. The closest ESA-listed species are in the Snohomish River, 0.25-miles from the nearest work area. There are multiple roads, fields and other physical barriers separating the work area from any surface conveyance to streams with ESA-listed species and critical habitat.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Background research shows that structure 4/5 is located within a NWI-polygon wetland adjacent to an active farm field. Work will be performed during the dry season, no removal/fill will occur, and all impacts will be temporary. No permanent fill/removal is included in the proposed action. Wetland mats must be used if area is too wet to access.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety N/A	<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 N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date August 12, 2014

Makary A. Hutson – KEPR-4