

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Mike Marleau
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Puget Sound Area Northern Intertie (PSANI)-Covington and Raver Substation Upgrades

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3, Routine Maintenance, B1.24 Property transfers, B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Location: Kent and Ravensdale, King County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes several improvements at the Covington and Raver substations in King County, Washington as part of the PSANI project. This project is required to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Transmission Planning (TPL-003) criteria for N-2¹ contingencies in the 10-year planning horizon. The project is also required as part of the regional agreement with Puget Sound Area utilities in the Columbia Grid Transmission Expansion Plan.

In order to meet these NERC requirements, BPA proposes acquiring approximately 13 acres of undeveloped land west of Raver Substation to expand the substation yard. The proposed expansion would require clearing approximately 7 acres of wooded habitat comprised of 20 to 25 year old Douglas-fir trees. Review of BPA historic aerial photos shows the expansion area was clearcut in phases between 1989 and 1994. The yard expansion would add one 500/230-kilovolt (kV) transformer with one 230-kV power circuit breaker. A new 500-kV power circuit breaker and motor operated disconnects would be added to an existing bay, and the Echo Lake 500-kV line would be reterminated at a different bay. A new 500-kV tie line would be built to the new 500/230-kV transformer. The Tacoma-Raver 500-kV No. 1 and No. 2 lines would be reconfigured and terminated at the new 230-kV yard. Protective relaying, SCADA, and telecommunications would be upgraded as needed.

In addition to the modifications described above, BPA would also implement the following improvements at Raver Substation:

- Replace the north bus reactor, circuit switches, and related components
- Install oil containment for the north bus reactor,

¹ N-2 contingencies are outages that result in the loss of multiple lines.

- Replace an emergency generator, automatic transfer switch, diesel fuel tank, breakers, disconnect switches, and related components,
- Construct a stormwater collection and treatment basin within the yard expansion area,
- Reconstruct 1,925 feet of existing access road along the east side of the substation. Reconstruction would include blading and rocking the road surface, installing a gate and boulders to limit unauthorized off-road access, replacing 130 feet of fence along the road, installing an additional 135 feet of fence, and extending an existing culvert within the adjacent drainage ditch.

At the Covington Substation, the Raver-Covington 230-kV No. 3 line would be reterminated to a new bay. The existing Covington Tie Line No. 2 would be reterminated and all 2.5-inch expanded conductor replaced. Three new 230-kV power circuit breakers and associated disconnects would be installed. The new sectionalizing breaker and the buswork would serve to rebalance the bus sections. Protective relaying, SCADA, and telecommunications would be upgraded as needed.

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.

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/ Justin T. Moffett
Justin T. Moffett
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 13, 2014

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Provisions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources

In the event any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Puget Sound Area Northern Intertie- Covington and Raver substation upgrades

Work Order #: 00319592, 00319588, 00310745, 00310746, 00343826, 00303984, 00304163

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 Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) issued concurrence on October 28, 2013. BPA reinitiated consultation with DAHP in April 2014 due to addition of the eastern access road reconstruction to project scope. DAHP issued supplemental concurrence on July 10, 2014. BPA shall implement inadvertent discovery protocol in the event cultural resources are encountered during project construction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Justin Moffett

Date: August 13, 2014