

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 4, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Holcomb-Naselle No. 1 transmission line 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 perform routine road maintenance on access roads in the 10, 11, and 17 mile sections of the BPA Holcomb-Naselle No. 1 transmission line. The action involves routine access road maintenance, e.g. rocking, grading, and installing or maintaining drainage features, on a total length of gravel access roads up to 4,100 feet. The roads provide necessary access to the right-of-way (ROW) corridor and transmission line to structures 10/4-10/6, 11/1 and 11/5, and 17/1-17/3. The road work also includes the installation of rock gabions and slope stabilization at a small slide along the access road cut on the approach to structure 10/5. To safely operate and maintain the transmission line at these locations, some rock may also be added to existing structure landings to maintain safe, level work surfaces. The open, cleared ROW corridor and access roads are on moderate to steep hills in private property managed for timber production. The existing roads will be maintained using access road construction and storm water best management practices. Cross drain culverts, drainage ditches and water bars will only be installed if drainages are dry, and within the existing road cut prism.

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 prior to a line outage in July-August 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: August 4, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Holcomb-Naselle No. 1 access road maintenance

Work Order #: 342914

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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. 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. Existing access road cut and landings were confirmed via site visit on 6/20/14. Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor.		
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 active silvicultural 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 and will not impact dispersal habitat that may be used by any T&E species. Cross drain road culverts, drainage ditches and water bars will only be installed in dry drainage ditches. Alder Creek, the only stream with potential T&E species within the proximity of the access road, is several hundred feet from Project site with significant vegetative buffer and no apparent surface channels to convey surface flows. Any exposed soil should be stabilized following road work. No effect.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 List supporting documentation attached (if needed):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: June 24, 2014

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4