

memorandum

DATE: July 23, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Clark
Right-of-Way Agent – TERR-3

Proposed Action: Approval of a Land Use Review Request (LURR) for Fencing in Right-of-Way in Klickitat County

Budget Information: 184006

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B 4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Location: Klickitat County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to approve a LURR (Case No. 20120234) from a private landowner seeking to install fencing within BPA's fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) that is next to his property. The landowner would like to install the fencing between structures 40/1 and 40/2 of the North Bonneville–Midway 230-kV transmission line and structures 93/3 and 93/4 of the Wautoma–Ostrander No. 1 500-kV transmission line. Upon approval of the LURR, BPA would authorize the landowner to install two sections of new fencing and a gate to enclose an area of BPA's ROW for horse grazing.

The area of BPA's ROW that would be within the new fenced area consists of approximately six acres of open pasture and a pond. Grazing has continuously occurred in the surrounding pasture adjacent to BPA's ROW for about 20 years.

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 in 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/ Jeffrey J. Maslow
Jeffrey J. Maslow
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: *July 23, 2014*

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions and Provisions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion includes the following provisions:

Natural Resources

- No motorized vehicle use within waterbodies or wetlands located in the BPA ROW. Existing fence posts must be removed manually or with vehicles at upland locations.

Cultural Resources

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

- Stop work in the vicinity and notify the BPA environmental lead and appropriate staff, who will notify interested tribes, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as soon as possible.
- 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: Approval of a Land Use Review Request (LURR) for Fencing in Right-of-Way in Klickitat County

Work Order #: 00184006

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 BPA determined that the proposed fencing would not affect historic properties, and consulted with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. If the proposed project leads to the discovery of archaeological or historical material, however, work must stop in the project vicinity and the prescribed protective measures (listed in the Provisions Attachment) must be taken.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect to threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat in Klickitat County.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No vehicles may be used within wetlands and waterbodies located in the BPA ROW.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
 Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Jeffrey J. Maslow

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