

memorandum

DATE: May 25, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad Hamel
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Bettas Road-Columbia No. 1 230-kV transmission line thermal upgrade

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): Appendix B4.13, Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Location: Kittitas and Chelan counties, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The project, as proposed, is to upgrade the existing Bettas Road-Columbia No. 1 230-kV transmission line to a maximum operating temperature of 100 °C. Five small segments (equal to approximately 3 miles) along the transmission line will be upgraded in order to meet this overall objective. Construction includes the relocation and rebuilding of three structures: 1/5, 2/2 and 34/5 within the existing transmission line right-of-way and the modification, in place, of two structures: 1/3 and 1/4. All project sites are located on private property in the Columbia Plateau region outside of Ellensburg, Washington and Wenatchee, Washington. Structure 34/5 is located on a nearly level orchard in the Columbia River Basin. The remaining structures are located on level to moderately sloped shrub-steppe.

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. 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/ Lisa MacLellan

Lisa MacLellan

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 25, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Bettas Road – Columbia No. 1 Transmission Line Thermal Upgrade

Work Order #: 00285681

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 Section 106 complete: no historical properties affected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species occur in the project area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Does not occur within a floodplain or wetland.	<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 None.	<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/ Lisa MacLellan

Date: May 23, 2012