

memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Semrau
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Pearl-Marion No.1 Line Tower 21/1 Bank Repair Project

PP&A Project No.: 2275

Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.24 Property Transfers

Location: Monitor, Clackamas County, Oregon
Township 6 South, Range 1 East, Section 5

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to repair a rip-rap stream bank protecting tower 21/1 on the BPA Pearl-Marion No. 1 500-kilovolt transmission line. Tower 21/1 is located on a corner of Butte Creek where annual scour adjacent to the tower poses an immediate threat to tower stability. Emergency rip-rap repair and stabilization was conducted in spring 2012 to temporarily protect the tower after severe erosion during high-water events. To maintain the rip-rap revetment and ensure long-term structure safety and reliability, BPA is proposing to repair the bank, filling the scour holes with rock, and keying the upstream rip-rap into the bank. The project shall include the use of bioengineering techniques and natural products (e.g. rip-rap with large woody debris, riparian planting) to the extent possible.

The project site is flat and located on private property in a rural, agricultural area. There is existing access to the project site and the work can be performed from the access road bed in the BPA right-of-way (ROW) corridor. BPA may acquire permanent easement rights for the existing site access road, including a 50-foot portion of road just outside of the existing ROW boundary and a 500-foot gravel road to access the ROW from the paved county road. The proposed project is scheduled to occur in August-September 2012.

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 project site is located on Butte Creek, approximately 6 miles from its confluence with the Pudding River. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, BPA submitted a joint permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District requesting authorization for the proposed action. BPA received project authorization under the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit No. 3 (Maintenance Activities) on July 31, 2012, Corps Permit No. NWP-2012-339. The Corps determined that the proposed project may affect Upper Willamette River Steelhead, a listed threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Corps utilized a programmatic biological opinion (SLOPES IV) to assess compliance with these laws and provide project coverage for incidental take.

The proposed project will not affect any other listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the ESA, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusions 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/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 13, 2012

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Provisions

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. Project activities must be conducted in accordance with conditions found in the Oregon Nationwide Permit (NWP) Regional Conditions, Portland District, and other conditions included in the NWP No. 3 authorization received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 31, 2012, Corps Permit No. NWP-2012-339.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be used during construction to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and prevent movement of soil into waterways.
3. Any excess spoils or material resulting from excavation should be disposed of properly offsite or in an upland area, per BPA's specifications. Also, all waste/trash generated during construction will be collected, removed, and disposed legally off-site.
4. Immediately notify the KEP environmental lead (Makary Hutson, 503-230-7667) in the event of a spill or release to the environment. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements.
5. No cultural resources were identified during the archaeological survey or the consultation process for this project. In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:
 - Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and appropriate BPA project staff. A BPA archaeologist, interested Tribes, and the appropriate county, state, federal agencies should also be notified.
 - 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.
 - Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.
6. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not continue until the KEP environmental lead can evaluate those changes.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Pearl-Marion No.1 Line Tower 21/1 bank repair project

Work Order #: 00305237, Task 1

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.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Oregon SHPO concurrence of No Adverse Effect received in a letter dated 7/26/2012.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Project activities are consistent with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) programmatic Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species IV (SLOPES IV) biological opinion, and BPA will follow stipulations in the Corps permit. Any in-stream and stream bank restoration work will occur during in-stream work window, July 15 through September 30, 2012.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands BMPs will comply with the applicable conditions and criteria listed in the NWP Authorization and enclosures received from the USACE, Portland District on July 31, 2012, Corps No.: NWP-2012-339.	<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 – Visual Impacts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (MSA)
Pearl-Marion No.1 Tower 21/1 Bank Repair Project

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: August 9, 2012