

memorandum

DATE: May 2, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Roy Slocum
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Alfalfa Substation Control House Replacement

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Location: Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace the control house at Alfalfa Substation with a larger control house to allow for additional metering, communication equipment, and backup batteries. As part of this action, BPA would remove the old control house once the new control house is in service.

The 20-foot-wide entrance gate on the substation fence would be replaced with a 30-foot-wide gate to improve vehicle access into the substation yard. In addition, the ground mat that lies below the substation would be repaired. An area extending 14 feet from the eastern fenceline would be excavated in a previously disturbed area to replace the ground mat, and then regraded to match existing conditions.

The existing control house is a 10-foot by 24-foot, plain metal structure. The new control house would be a 14-foot by 40-foot, prefabricated, modular unit of similar appearance. All equipment would be installed within the control house before delivery at the site. A flatbed truck would bring the control house to the site, and then a crane would place it on a concrete slab foundation. Some trenching within the substation yard would be needed to run conduit between the new control house and substation equipment.

Equipment needed to perform the work would include a flatbed truck to deliver the control house, a crane for lifting the control house in place, a concrete truck, and assorted BPA construction vehicles. An area outside the fenceline next to the substation entrance would be used for construction staging. Construction access would occur on existing, maintained access roads.

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.

/s/ Carolyn Sharp
Carolyn Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 2, 2014

Attachment(s):
Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources

If requested by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation, a tribal monitor will be on site for all ground disturbing activities associated with construction. The contractor will be responsible for coordinating with BPA to ensure that the monitor is on site at the appropriate time.

BPA will prepare an Inadvertent Discovery Protocol with the Yakama Cultural Resources Program specific to the site. 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 cultural resource specialist. Notify interested tribes, the landowner, 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 and restrict access to the site of discovery.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Alfalfa Substation Control House Replacement

Work Order #: 00333080

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 Yakama Tribe concurrence with Area of Potential Effect received 1/30/2014 As requested, a cultural resource monitor will be on-site during ground-disturbing activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Disturbance limited to existing substation yard and parking area	<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 Pollution abatement clearance issued 11/14/13	<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 None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

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