

memorandum

DATE: July 25, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Celilo Converter Station Upgrades

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

Location: The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to upgrade its Celilo Converter Station in The Dalles, Oregon. The converter station is reaching the end of its service life and has outdated technology and equipment that has resulted in ongoing reliability and maintenance issues. BPA proposes to perform upgrades to the station in order to improve reliability and to bring it up to current technical and operational standards.

The upgrade would include removal of existing converter #1 and #2 equipment located within the substation fence, and install new converter equipment in its place. An approximate 5-acre expansion of the northeast portion of the existing substation would take place on existing BPA property to accommodate some of the new equipment. The expansion would require some earthwork on the adjacent hillside to bring the new substation area to grade. Offset soils with no contamination would be disposed of on site. The oil/water separator system would be upgraded to handle an oil release consistent with the capacity of the new terminal.

To accommodate the additional heavy vehicle traffic to the site during construction, the existing northeast access road and gate would be reconstructed and realigned. New security fencing, intercom, camera, and lighting would be added to the realigned access entrance. A new guard station and gate would be constructed at the entrance from Columbia View Drive. The guard station would consist of a building trailer, telephone, power, and network access. The existing entrance gate would be replaced with an electrically operated gate and intercom.

Upgrades to the existing control house would also take place. The degassing room would be brought to current seismic standards and remodeled with a new floor structure, interior finishes, HVAC, lighting, power, and fire detection system. The space would be used to house new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) protection and control equipment, and would accommodate consolidated office space and conference rooms. Internal equipment and controls decommissioned as part of the project would be disposed of off-site to an approved waste or recycling facility.

A wheel wash station and laydown yard would be located outside the converter station fence but within the larger perimeter fence on BPA fee-owned property, south of BPA's Big Eddy substation. The laydown area would be graded and graveled with some lighting and a surveillance camera. All work

performed as part of this project would occur within previously disturbed areas that have been used for ongoing transmission line and substation operation.

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. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce, for
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *July 25, 2013*

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Provisions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural resources:

- Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. A qualified archaeologist should immediately be notified and an evaluation made and a treatment plan developed should the find be significant.

Vegetation protection and noxious weeds:

- Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews would be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated areas and existing roads as much as possible.
- Designated areas would be used to store equipment and supplies.
- After construction, disturbed areas not needed for ongoing access or maintenance should be promptly reseeded with native species where possible.

Erosion control and land use:

- Require dust abatement on road and construction site, if necessary.
- Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized for the protection of water resources, including a SWPPP and NPDES permit.
- Plan and schedule construction activities, when practical, to minimize temporary disturbance, displacement of crops, and interference with farming activities.

Public Health and Safety:

- Limit heavy construction activities to daytime hours for noise abatement.
- No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
- Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. Contaminated media include materials that are potentially harmful to the environment or human health and safety. Work will proceed only after measures are put in place to prevent the spread of contaminated materials and protect the health and safety of workers.
- Equip vehicles with fire suppression equipment, including a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bladder or water supply.
- Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Upgrades to Celilo Converter Station in The Dalles, Oregon

Work Order #: 00315552, task 03

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 SHPO concurrence on no adverse affect to historic property received 6/12/13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present	<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 The Celilo Converter Station is within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Because it is within the designated Urban Area planning boundary, work at the Converter Station is exempt from the National Scenic Area requirements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<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/ Claire McClory

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