

# memorandum

DATE: July 22, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-Covington

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Rick Ross  
Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Covington District Culvert Replacements

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** Appendix B1.3,  
Routine Maintenance

**Location:** King County, WA

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to replace existing culverts at 12 access road stream crossings that present barriers to fish passage. These improvements will be made on BPA easement access roads within DNR owned and managed lands. BPA will make these improvements by installing new fish friendly culverts and/or bridges at each stream crossing. The current stream crossings do not meet DNR fish passage standards that will be in effect in 2015, thus BPA proposes to begin upgrading these 12 structures this summer. Eight structures will be replaced with fish friendly culverts and four structures will be replaced with fish friendly bridges. All culverts and bridges are designed meet the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) *Design of Road Culverts for Fish Passage* standards, as well as standards provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and were reviewed and approved by DNR engineers.

Waters in which culverts are proposed to be replaced do not contain Threatened or Endangered (T&E) fish species. All stream crossings are located in mix-use temperate forests, on level or nearly level existing access roads. Each project area is located on land managed by DNR for recreation, timber sales and preservation. All crossings are located in King County.

Culvert	Stream Name	Description
SP-1	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to South Fork of the Snoqualmie River
SP-2	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to South Fork of the Snoqualmie River
SP-5	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Raging River

<b>Culvert</b>	<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
SP-6	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Raging River
SP-7	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Deep Creek
SP-8	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Holder Creek
SP-9	Unnamed Stream	Flows into Howard A. Hanson Reservoir
SP-10	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Gale Creek
SP-11	Cougar Creek	Tributary to Green River
SP-12	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Sylvester Creek
SP-13	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to Sylvester Creek
SP-14	Unnamed Stream	Tributary to South Fork of the Snoqualmie River

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, April 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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 22, 2013

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Covington District Culvert Replacements

Work Order #: 299664, 299877

**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 No historic properties affected. Surveys conducted and SHPO concurrence received on 6/25/2013	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T & E species or habitat present at project locations. Erosion and sediment control and work area isolation BMP's will be in place to prevent increased turbidity and turbid waters entering neighboring streams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands impacted.	<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 No prime or unique farmland impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Project work covered under Washington's Forest Practices Act and therefore does not trigger 404 or 401 permits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

WA SHPO concurrence letter

Signed: /s/ Chad Browning

Date: July 11, 2013

Chad Browning, KEPR-Covington