

memorandum

DATE: September 18, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Kerry Cook
Civil Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Todd Wehner
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Roy Slocum
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Yaak Substation transformer replacement

PP&A Project No.: 2608

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions or modifications

Location: Lincoln County, Montana: Township 33 North, Range 34 West, Section 26 and 27.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to replace a transformer in its existing Yaak Substation electrical yard. The replacement would require that test pits be dug in order to determine the underlying soil geology/characteristics. Soil geology data would be used to determine if the existing transformer pad would need to be removed and upgraded, or if it could remain in place. The existing transformer pad could be reused or it would be replaced to accommodate the new transformer. All electrical improvement work will take place within the existing substation footprint.

In addition, approximately ½ mile of access road to Yaak Substation would be improved to allow for transportation of new equipment into the substation. The road will be graded and rocked and all road improvements would take place within the existing road easement.

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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 18, 2013

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Yaak Substation soil study, access road improvement and transformer replacement

Work Order #: 00319352/00329500

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 Cultural surveys were performed at the proposed exploratory test pit sites as well as the access road. MT SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of No Adverse Affect to historic properties.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species are present within ½ mile of the project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Surface waters are not located near the proposed travel route.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: Michael A. Rosales

Date: September 4, 2013

Michael A. Rosales, KEPR/Bell-1