

memorandum

DATE: December 11, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chris Bachmann
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Xeriscaping at Four Facilities

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021: B 1.3 Routine maintenance

Location: Multiple locations within Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) service area

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install new, low maintenance landscaping within previously landscaped areas at facilities in Oregon, Washington and Montana. Vegetation with minimal water and maintenance needs would be installed at four facilities to test the effectiveness in conserving water and time and reducing the use of herbicides and fertilizer.

Facility	County	State	Township/Range/Section
Eugene Substation	Lane	OR	17 South, 4 West, Section 23
Chemawa Substation	Marion	OR	6 South, 3 West, Section 25
Richland Substation	Benton	WA	9 North, 28 West, Section 15
Kalispell Maintenance HQ	Flathead	MT	29 North, 21 West, Section 33

Existing ornamental shrubs, lawns, groundcover and subsurface irrigation lines would be removed from landscaped areas surrounding the entrance to the substation or maintenance facility. These areas would be replanted with native plant species appropriate for the region and adapted to local soil, rainfall, and temperature conditions. Mulch would be placed over the newly planted area to reduce the potential for erosion. Temporary irrigation lines would be used until vegetation has established itself, typically two growing seasons. Existing established trees would remain in place. The project is scheduled to be implemented in summer 2014.

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/ Carolyn A. Sharp
Carolyn A. Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: December 11, 2013

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Xeriscaping at Four Facilities

Work Order #: multiple

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 Disturbance limited to area previously disturbed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Disturbance limited to replacing facility landscaping with native plant material	<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	<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

Date: December 11, 2013

Carolyn Sharp/KEC-4: