

memorandum

DATE: January 6, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jonathan Toobian
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Longview-Cowlitz Fiber Optic Cable Upgrade

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 Fiber optic cable

Location: Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to add about three miles of aerial fiber optic cable to its Longview-Cowlitz No. 1 115-kV transmission line. The fiber cable would begin at BPA's Longview Substation control house and be pulled through existing conduit to a vault in the transmission line right-of-way. Beginning at tower 1/4 on the Longview-Cowlitz transmission line, fiber cable would be installed aurally to tower 4/7, the last transmission line pole outside of BPA's Cowlitz substation. The fiber would travel to a dead-end tower located within the substation, then down the dead-end structure to the substation tracks that lead to the Cowlitz Substation control house. The upgrade would help improve BPA's transmission system communication in the area.

About 2,000 feet of cable installed underground would use existing conduit and would not require any new ground disturbance. To accommodate the additional weight of the fiber cable on the transmission line, BPA would need to rebuild eight towers to a higher pole class: 1/10, 2/1, 3/7, 3/8, 4/2, 4/5, 4/6, and 4/7. This in-kind replacement would use the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger could be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole before the new poles are placed. Existing guy wires and anchors on the rebuilt poles would be replaced in the same location as before. Access to the pole structures is on the existing BPA right-of-way. Access road improvements would include minor blading, grading, and rocking, but would not go beyond the previously disturbed road footprint.

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/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 6, 2014

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist
Provisions
Inadvertent Discovery Language

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources

An archaeological monitor will be present during all ground disturbing activities that occur during wood pole replacement. In the event that any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions will be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead Claire McClory KEC-4, BPA archaeologist Brian O'Donnchadha KEC-4, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Washington DAHP, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.
- Refer to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe Inadvertent Discovery Language appended to this document.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Longview-Cowlitz Fiber Optic Cable Upgrade

Work Order #: 308589, 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.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources An archaeological monitor will attend all ground disturbing activities that occur during wood pole replacement..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory

Date: January 6, 2014

Claire McClory KEC-4



COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

Cultural Resources Department

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INADVERTENT DISCOVERY LANGUAGE

[revised 130708]

In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activity, work in the immediate area (initially allowing for a 100' buffer; this number may vary by circumstance) must stop and the following actions taken:

1. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering; and
2. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site; and,
3. Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.

The project proponent will notify the concerned Tribes and all appropriate county, state, and federal agencies, including the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (SHPO in Oregon). The agencies and Tribe(s) will discuss possible measures to remove or avoid cultural material, and will reach an agreement with the project proponent regarding actions to be taken and disposition of material.

If human remains are uncovered, appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified first, and the above steps followed. If the remains are determined to be Native, consultation with the affected Tribes will take place in order to mitigate the final disposition of said remains.

See the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 27.53, "Archaeological Sites and Resources," for applicable state laws and statutes. See also Washington State Executive Order 05-05, "Archaeological and Cultural Resources." Additional state and federal law(s) may also apply.

It is strongly encouraged copies of this plan are retained on-site while project activity is underway.

Contact information:

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