

memorandum

DATE: December 6, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: David Tripp
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Tacoma and Raver Substation Antenna Project

Budget Information: Work Orders 188360 and 188364, Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19: “Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities...”

Locations: Tacoma Substation, Pierce County, Washington (T20N, R3E, Section 1)
Raver Substation, King County, Washington (T21N, R7E, Section 5)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install a new monopole communication antenna structure and related equipment within two BPA substations in Pierce and King Counties, Washington. The proposed work would occur within the existing substation yards at the BPA Tacoma and Raver Substations. The project is needed to relocate temporary antennas mounted on the substation control house roofs that are not adequately rated for snow/ice loading and to maintain BPA’s ability to reliably monitor and operate the transmission system in the region.

The proposed monopole structures would each be about 40 feet tall and would be installed within the existing substation yards, adjacent to the substation control houses. Each pole would require auguring to a depth up to 10 feet, with a disturbance area up to 10 feet in diameter. BPA may also need to excavate or trench up to 2 feet deep and 15 feet in length from the poles to the ground mat below the substation. Related communications equipment would be installed within the existing substation control houses, as needed.

All ground disturbing activities would occur within the previously leveled, graveled or paved substation footprints on BPA fee-owned property that is easily accessed via existing access roads. The proposed project is scheduled to be completed during winter 2010-2011.

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). 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, 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 will 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, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

BPA will be working within the existing, graveled substation yards and control houses; there is no vegetation in the yards and no habitat or special areas of interest that would be disturbed from this work. BPA has determined that there will be no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act. There will be no impact to floodplains or wetlands, and no impact to areas of great visual value.

A background review of the project area was performed by a BPA contract archaeologist, who determined there would be no adverse effect on historic properties from the proposed project per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On November 5, 2010, BPA sent consultation letters and its determination to the Washington SHPO and potentially interested tribes for their review and comment. In a letter dated November 9, 2010, the Washington SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of no adverse effect on historic properties.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ James Kehoe for

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: December 6, 2010

Attachments:

Environmental Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:
 - Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the appropriate BPA project staff and a BPA archaeologist. In addition, all concerned Tribes and appropriate county, state, federal agencies should be notified.
 - Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
 - Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site.
 - Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. Any excess spoils resulting from excavation should be disposed of properly, per BPA's specifications. Also, all waste/trash generated during construction will be collected, removed, and disposed legally off-site.
4. Immediately notify the KEP environmental lead in the event of a spill or release to the environment. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements.
5. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not proceed until the KEP environmental lead can evaluate those changes.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Tacoma and Raver Substation Antenna Project

Work Order #: 188360 and 188364, Task 03

This project has been found to **not** adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources SHPO concurrence on determination of no historic properties affected received from the WA SHPO on 11/9/2010.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species or their habitats are present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands will be impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation There are not any areas of special designation present in the project vicinity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety There are no known health and safety concerns from the proposed project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands The project will not have an impact on prime agricultural lands.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water There are not any special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities Typical construction wastes may be generated (oil and vehicle fuel). Control measures would help prevent accidental release of hazardous materials and clean-up and disposal would be according to applicable hazardous waste laws and regulations. PAC has been submitted for work in the existing yards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other – Visual impacts The project will not impact areas of great visual value. The new monopoles and equipment will be located on sites with existing transmission infrastructure and similar facilities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Supporting documentation is in the official project file.

Signed: Makary Hutson

Date: December 6, 2010