

memorandum

DATE: January 10, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Modify two structures along the Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way #1, 115-kV transmission line

PP&A Project No: 1669

Work Order No: 259751

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

- B1.3 Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights of way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment...routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.
- B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

Location: The project is located in Spokane County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: This project will modify two towers, identified as 2/7 and 2/8, on the Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way #1, 115-kV transmission line so that the Sullivan Substation can be taken out of service while allowing the Vera Substation to stay energized.

At steel pole structure 2/7, one set of jumpers on the Sullivan Substation side will be removed while adding another set of jumpers and insulators on the opposite side. This modification will allow the Sullivan Substation to be isolated from electrical grid during facility outages.

At structure 2/8, the existing 75 foot tall wood pole structure will be replaced with a similar height steel pole structure and pole mounted disconnect switch, jumpers and insulators. This new configuration will allow the Vera Substation to remain energized during outages at the Sullivan Substation. To minimize outage duration during removal of the existing wood pole

structure, the steel pole footing will be installed a few feet south of the existing 2/8 structure so that the footing can be completed prior to installation of the steel pole.

The proposed action will allow substation outages to occur while keeping the substation energized. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Analysis:

ESA Listed Species and Habitat

In response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has prepared an Effects Determination for the proposed project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources

On October 27, 2010, Section 106 consultation was initiated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and affected Tribes. Based on background research and the high degree of disturbance due to commercial development and city road improvements, BPA believed there would be *no effect* to historic properties; therefore, a survey was unwarranted.

On January 3, 2011, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with BPA's determination of "No Adverse Effect".

In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured, and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.

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 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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 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 un-permitted releases; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

With the actions 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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Michael A. Rosales

Physical Scientist - Environment

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 10, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Vera Tap structure replacement at 2/7 and 2/8

PP&A Project No.: 1669 Work Order No.: 259751

Prepared by: M. Rosales Routing: KEPR-Bell-1 Date: 01/06/2011

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On October 27, 2010, Section 106 consultation was initiated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and affected Tribes. Based on background research and the high degree of disturbance due to commercial development and city road improvements, BPA believed there would be <i>no effect</i> to historic properties; therefore, a survey was unwarranted. On January 3, 2011, SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of "No Adverse Effect". ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ T & E species or habitats are not located within the project area. 		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water resources (streams, ponds, wetlands) are not present within ½ mile of the project area. 		
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>