

memorandum

DATE: June 10, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Chad J. Hamel, Project Manager - TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: South Tacoma - Frederickson Power Fiber Project

Budget Information: 00224730 - Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 -
Adding/Burying Fiber Optic Cable

Location: Pierce County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to add both new overhead and buried fiber optic cable in Pierce County, Washington, adjacent to the BPA South Tacoma-White River No. 1 and the Chehalis-Covington No. 1 transmission lines. The purpose of this project is to increase reliability and redundancy of the fiber optic communications between the BPA's South Tacoma Substation and Frederickson Power.

The proposed project would begin at the existing South Tacoma Substation in which the new fiber line would follow existing buried conduit which would emerge out of the ground and jump up to BPA's existing tower 47/4 (of the Chehalis-Covington No. 1 transmission line) and over to BPA's existing tower 1/4 (of the South Tacoma-White River No. 1 transmission line). From these two existing BPA towers, the new fiber line would then head east follow existing Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) transmission line poles along 180th Street East. At the corner of 180th Street East and 50th Avenue East, one of PSE's existing poles would be guyed. Guying this existing corner pole provides reinforcement for stability purposes. The guy line would be anchored using a buried 28" plate anchor. Then, at this corner, the new fiber line would head south on 50th Avenue East on existing PSE transmission line poles to the intersection of 184th Street East and 50th Avenue East.

At that point, the new fiber line would then be buried underground within a new conduit that would follow 50th Avenue East to the Frederickson Power property. The trenching needed to bury the new fiber line and new conduit would be 700-feet in length and would range from 4-feet to 20-feet in depth (based on existing buried structures/lines that are already present). Once the new fiber and new conduit are placed in the trench, omni balls would also be placed in the trench so that utility locating can be performed. Omni balls help utility companies locate buried structures. At the terminus of the trench, a new 4-foot by 4-foot underground vault would be added so that the new fiber line can then be utilized by Frederickson Power. Lastly, there would be no need for any new access roads nor will there be any road upgrades needed for this proposed project.

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 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, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

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/ Andrew M. Montaña

Andrew M. Montaña

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

DATE: June 10, 2011

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources:

1. Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. A qualified archaeologist should immediately be notified and an evaluation made and a treatment plan developed should the find be significant.

Vegetation Protection and Noxious Weeds:

2. Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews would be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated areas and existing roads as much as possible.
3. Designated areas would be used to store equipment and supplies. The contractor would follow applicable state and federal regulations to protect plant communities.
4. After construction, disturbed areas not needed for ongoing access or maintenance should be promptly reseeded with native species where possible.
5. Seed mix for revegetation should contain a mixture of the common native bunchgrasses and dryland species present in the Project area. Native seed is commercially available for this area.
6. Do not spread noxious weed seeds:
 - Certify in writing that all vehicles, equipment, and machinery are free of all weeds including seeds before moving the equipment into the construction area. The COTR will inspect vehicles prior to bringing them on site.
 - When an area contaminated by weeds is encountered on, or off of, the construction site, use caution to prevent the spreading of weeds to other areas. This may include cleaning the equipment with high-pressure water prior to moving from one work site to another, or installing wheel washes. Notify the COTR as to the location of the noxious weeds.
7. Use only weed-free materials, or inert materials for mulching and for erosion control.

Erosion Control and Land Use:

8. Require dust abatement on road and construction site, if necessary.
9. Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized for the protection of water resources.
10. Provide a schedule of construction activities to all landowners/agencies along the corridor that could be affected by construction.

11. Plan and schedule construction activities, when practical, to minimize temporary disturbance, displacement of crops, and interference with farming activities.
12. Keep gates in as found condition (opened or closed). Coordinate construction sequence with landowner so that livestock may be moved if necessary.

Public Health and Safety:

13. Limit construction to daytime hours for noise abatement.
14. No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
15. Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. Contaminated media include materials that are potentially harmful to the environment or human health and safety. Work will proceed only after measures approved by the WDOE are put in place to prevent the spread of contaminated materials and protect the health and safety of workers.
16. Equip vehicles with fire suppression equipment, including a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bladder or water supply.
17. Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: South Tacoma - Frederickson Power Fiber Project

Work Order #: 00224730 - 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: Andrew Montaño

Date: June 10, 2011