

memorandum

DATE: June 14, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth
Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: North Bonneville-Ross #1 230-kV, North Bonneville-Troutdale #2 230-kV transmission line maintenance

Budget Information: Work Order #00246927

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1666

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.13

Reconstruction (upgrading or rebuilding) and/or minor relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less to enhance environmental and land use values. Such actions include relocations to avoid right-of-way encroachments, resolve conflict with property development, accommodate road/highway construction, allow for the construction of facilities such as canals and pipelines, or reduce existing impacts to environmentally sensitive areas.

Location: The proposed project is on the North Bonneville-Troutdale transmission line at steel lattice structure 23/1 and the North Bonneville-Ross #1 transmission line 21/5 wood pole in Clark County, Washington, T2N R3E S25.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct transmission line maintenance along a portion of the North Bonneville-Ross #1 and North Bonneville-Troutdale #2 230-kV transmission lines. The maintenance activities will take place within the existing transmission line and access road right-of-way easements and includes upgrading existing roads, developing new roads, installing two new wood pole structures and two new steel tower structures.

Detailed Project Description

- Access road maintenance will involve clearing vegetation from existing road surfaces, grading and shaping existing road surfaces, installing water bars and drain dips where needed. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism and the existing road easement width of 15 feet.
- New access road construction will involve removing vegetation, blading, grading, rocking of proposed vehicle travel routes to the North Bonneville-Troutdale steel lattice structure 23/1 and the Bonneville-Ross #1 21/5 wood pole. If deemed necessary to

protect new roads from water erosion, culverts, drainage ditches, water bars and drain dips may be constructed. The finished road width will be 15 feet.

- Landing and structure construction, typically the work area around a dead-end lattice tower is 200'x200' and 100'x100' for the dead-end wood poles.
- Installation of steel lattice and wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guys and guy anchors, etc.) include using:
 - Backhoes to excavate areas for the steel lattice grillage foundations and wood pole guy wire anchors
 - Augers will be used to dig the holes for the wood poles

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/ John Howington

John Howington
Environmental Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 14, 2011

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: North Bonneville-Ross #1 230-kV, North Bonneville-Troutdale #2 230-kV transmission line swap project located in Clark County, WA

Work Order #: 00246927 **PP&A Project No.:** PP&A-1666

Prepared by: John Howington **Routing:** KEP-4 **Date:** 6/7/11

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 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. Area previously surveyed. SHPO's "No Effect" concurrence received May 24, 2011.	<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 None	<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 None	<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"/>

Supporting documentation is in the official project file:
Effects Determination for T&E Species