

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 27, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dave Roberts
Project Manager - KEW

Proposed Action: Continuation of Yakama Nation Sturgeon Management Project

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2008-455-00

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.20 Small-scale activities undertaken to protect cultural resources (such as fencing, labeling, and flagging) or to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders and minor diversion channels), or fisheries.

Location: Prosser and Marion Drain, Benton and Yakima counties, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: As proposed in the Columbia Basin Fish Accord Memorandum of Agreement with Three Treaty Tribes and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, BPA would fund the Yakama Nation (YN) to continue research activities at the Marion Drain and Prosser Fish Hatcheries in eastern Washington State.

Activities that would take place at the facilities include:

- Maintaining approximately 97 captive brood sturgeons acquired from previous research projects in the Columbia River Basin,
- Rearing approximately 3,000 yearling sturgeon spawned from captive brood in Brood Year (BY) 2007,
- Rearing an additional approximately 100 sturgeon fry spawned from captive brood in BY08,
- Rearing an additional approximately 35 sturgeon fry spawned from captive brood in BY09,
- Rearing an additional approximately 5000 sturgeon fry spawned from captive brood in BY10,
- Rearing an additional approximately 1000 sturgeon fry spawned from captive brood in BY11,
- Rearing an additional approximately 5000 sturgeon fry spawned from captive brood in BY12,

Rearing consists of applicable fish culture techniques which include: feeding, cleaning, monitoring water quality against known standards, and maintaining fish health.

No ground disturbing activities or new development/construction are proposed under this action. No sturgeon would be released from the facilities. All activities associated with this action would occur within the existing facilities and would not alter or destroy habitat for threatened or endangered species, therefore; no effect to federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species is expected. No new water rights would be required and additional water needs could be met from existing wells.

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.

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/ Hanna Dondy-Kaplan
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: December 27, 2012

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Sturgeon Management

Work Order #: 266311

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

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