

memorandum

DATE: February 6, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Roy Slocum
Project Manager - TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Coulee-Westside Transfer Trip Replacement

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic Equipment

Locations: Grand Coulee, WA and Spokane, WA

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The BPA has entered into a three-party agreement with Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and Avista Corporation (Avista) to coordinate the replacement of relays and removal of transfer trip equipment at Avista's Westside Substation and the Bureau's Grand Coulee Switchyard on the Grand Coulee-Westside 230-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line. Under this agreement, BPA proposes to:

- (a) Design, provide, and install all necessary communication transport circuit hardware for the existing Jungle Multiplexer at BPA's Bell Substation for the mirror bit transfer trip relay to relay communications on the Grand Coulee-Westside No. 1 230-kV line.
- (b) Design, provide, and install all necessary communication transport circuit hardware at the Bureau's Grand Coulee 115-kV Switchyard (GCON), Grand Coulee Radio Station, and Grand Coulee 500 -kV (GCFI) Switchyard for the mirror bit transfer trip relay to relay communications on the Grand Coulee-Westside No. 1 230-kV line.
- (c) Temporarily use two strands of the Bureau's existing multimode fiber between the Bureau's GCFI and GCON and two strands of existing fiber between the Bureau's GCON and Grand Coulee 230-kV Switchyard (GCTW).
- (d) Retire the existing analog transfer trip circuit 7024 from BPA's D analog communication system.

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/ Justin T. Moffett
Justin T. Moffett
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: February 6, 2013

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Coulee-Westside Transfer Trip Replacement

Work Order #: 00298492

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and 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 or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Justin Moffett

Date: January 6, 2013