

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 18, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Amended Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amy M. Freel
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Update to Previous Categorical Exclusion – Inclusion of new easements to Iberdrola and PacifiCorp related to the Shunt Capacitor Addition at Jones Canyon Substation (original dated 4/21/2010)

Budget Information: 00232732, Task 1

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 – Multiple use of DOE transmission rights-of-way; and, B4.11 – Construction of electric power substations at 230-kV or modification of existing substations and support facilities.

Location: Arlington, Gilliam County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA will expand its Jones Canyon Substation by 114,680 square feet (2.6 acres) beyond the existing substation area that exists within the fence-line of the substation property to install shunt capacitors. The new shunt capacitors will help stabilize the voltage during certain generation and line-system conditions. Within this new area, ground disturbance will include organics/soils removal and the addition of fill materials. The amount of fill needed within the new expansion area will range from 0 to 3.5 feet in depth in order to level out the expansion yard. All fill materials (borrowed fill and rock, and other drainage features) will be brought in through an existing access road located on the east side of the existing substation. Onsite material will be reused as much as possible, but if additional fill material is needed, a nearby supplier will be found. Any excess rocks or boulders would be kept onsite and used to stabilize drainage areas, ditches, or as landscaping features, depending on size. Once the new area of this expansion project has been graded, routine substation equipment will be brought in to occupy this new area. This equipment will include fencing, grounding, conduit, footings, high voltage equipment, overhead grounding pole, and other supplies.

Additionally, BPA will be providing two easements within this expanded area. The first easement will be granted to Iberdrola Renewables for their interconnection from the Leaning Juniper II wind facility into the Jones Canyon substation. This easement will be 266 feet in length by 20 feet in width and will be in an L-shaped configuration within the southeast portion of this expansion area. The second easement will be granted to PacifiCorp in which their company will be relocating a transmission line that currently transverses the proposed expansion

area. PacifiCorp will move their transmission line to the northwestern portion of the expansion area. This easement will be 314 feet in length by 10 feet in width.

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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrew M. Montañó
Andrew M. Montañó
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

DATE: October 18, 2010

Attachment:
Provisions

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 and clearing 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. Cutting or crushing of undesired vegetation is preferred over blading or clearing.
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 ODEQ 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.