

memorandum

DATE: February 21, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dave Forward
Road Designer – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Libby-Troy Access Road Upgrades

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3, Routine Maintenance

Location: Lincoln County, MT

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Upgrade and improve access roads from Structures 14/5 through 18/5 on the Libby-Troy section of the Libby-Bonnors Ferry No. 1 115-kV transmission line.

Background

This project entails improving the several existing access roads along the Libby-Troy section of the Libby-Bonnors Ferry No. 1 115-kV transmission line. Action locations for project access and road repair activities will include:

- Install new surface approach from State Highway 567 (Pipe Creek Rd.) to AFX-14-AR-10 to re-establish access to Structures 14/4 and 14/5, which was removed by a mass wasting event.
- Re-construct erosion damage to access roads along AXF-15-AR-2.
- Re-construct slumping access road fill slopes along AXF-17-AR-2 and AXF-18-AR-2.
- Install access road dips and bumps to manage road surface runoff velocities.
- Upgrade two access road gates.

The proposed improvements, reconstruction, and design activities will conform to the design and mitigation requirements as described in the 2009 Rebuild of the Libby-Troy Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0379) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The BPA ROW was surveyed for cultural resources for the rebuild project in 2009 and no cultural resources were found during surveys in the area. No new excavations below the existing fills are anticipated and this work does not represent a significant change in the project design or location which may trigger environmental concerns.

Some project activities are located in an area described under the Forest Service-Addendum to U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Special Use Permit which includes the BPA Right-of-Way (ROW) Management Plan dated October 28, 2005. The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) was contacted and identified no concerns with these proposed project activities.

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.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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/ Kevin George

Kevin George
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: February 21, 2013

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Libby-Troy Access Road Upgrades

Work Order #: 317627

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 No new ground disturbances are authorized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No species or habitat will be impacted by this project. T & E fish species occur within the project area, but no work will occur in water and all necessary BMP's will be in place to protect adjacent streams. No trees are to be cleared with this action.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmland impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water Install appropriate water quality BMP's to protect Dad Creek.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) Where applicable, the mitigation, restoration, and timing requirements as established in the Rebuild of the Libby-Troy Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0379) will be adhered to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Kevin George

Date: February 5, 2013

Kevin George, KEP-4