

memorandum

DATE: January 30, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Michael Marleau
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1**Proposed Action:** 500/230-kilovolt (kV) Transformer Phase Separation Projects**Project Work Order Numbers:**

Substation	WO#
Custer	00298185
Garrison	00298183
Hatwai	00298186
Pearl	00304719
Redmond	00304611
Santiam	00298189
Satsop	00298188
Vantage	00298184

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities**Location:**

Substation	County, State	Township, Range, Section
Custer	Whatcom County, Washington	Township 39 North, Range 1 East, Section 1
Garrison	Powell County, Montana	Township 9 North, Range 10 West, Section 20
Hatwai	Nez Perce County, Idaho	Township 36 North, Range 5 West, Section 13
Pearl	Clackamas County, Oregon	Township 3 South, Range 1 West, Section 11
Redmond	Deschutes County, Oregon	Township 15 South, Range 13 East, Section 18
Santiam	Linn County, Oregon	Township 9 South, Range 1 East, Section 22
Satsop	Grays Harbor County, Washington	Township 17 North, Range 6 West, Section 8
Vantage	Grant County, Washington	Township 16 North, Range 23 East, Section 16

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to increase the physical distance that separates each phase of the 500/230-kV transformer banks at BPA's Custer, Garrison, Hatwai, Pearl, Redmond, Santiam, Satsop, and Vantage substations. The reason for the increased distance is to minimize the effects of a transformer fire or explosion as outlined in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. guidelines for substation fire suppression. At each substation, new rigid bus would also be installed to re-connect to the re-spaced transformers. In

addition, an oil spill secondary containment system would be installed for the new transformer footings.

Lastly, the substation yards would be expanded at Garrison, Satsop, and Santiam substations to accommodate the increase in transformer phase separation and to provide access to the transformer areas during both construction and subsequent maintenance activities. The existing perimeter fence at Garrison Substation would be expanded to the east onto approximately one acre of existing BPA property. The existing perimeter fence at Satsop Substation would be expanded to the south and east onto approximately one acre of existing BPA property. At Santiam Substation, the existing substation access road and substation gate would be relocated approximately 25 feet to the south and the existing perimeter fence in the 500-kV yard would be expanded approximately 110 feet to the east onto existing BPA property. The entire Santiam Substation yard expansion area has been previously graded, graveled, and is also currently maintained with a water drainage system.

All other construction activities would occur within the existing substation yard or previously disturbed facility footprint. Once modifications are completed the sites would be fully restored.

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.

Cultural resource surveys and background research were undertaken at Garrison, Santiam, and Satsop substations to ensure the proposed expansion areas would have no adverse effects to cultural resources. Consultation initiation letters were sent to Montana's State Historical and Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho on July 16, 2012 regarding the project at Garrison Substation. The Montana SHPO concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to cultural resources determination on October 9, 2012. No response was received from the tribes. A consultation initiation letter was

sent to Oregon's SHPO on September 13, 2012, regarding the project at Santiam Substation. The Oregon SHPO concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to cultural resources determination on November 21, 2012. Consultation initiation letters were sent to Washington's SHPO, the Quinault Indian Nation, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation on October 16, 2012, regarding the project at Satsop Substation. The Washington SHPO concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to cultural resources determination on December 27, 2013. No response was received from the tribes.

The project areas are absent of unique wildlife habitat, water features, or other environmentally sensitive resources. Because of the previous disturbance and lack of habitat, no ESA species listed or proposed for listing are likely to be present. There would also be no effect to floodplains or wetlands. It was therefore determined that no adverse environmental effects would occur from construction of the project.

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/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum
Environmental Engineer

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: January 30, 2013

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 500/230-kV Transformer Phase Separation Projects

Work Order #: 00298185, 00298183, 00298186, 00304719, 00304611, 00298189, 00298188, 00298184

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 Work is to be restricted to the existing prism of the facility. On site inspector or COTR will cease operations if potential cultural resources encountered during any portion of work.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) All work will be conducted within the substation yards and associated facilities. No T & E species or their habitat will be affected by this project.	<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 All applicable federal, state, and local requirements for stormwater and sediment control will be implemented during and after project construction. This may include the temporary or permanent installation of stormwater retention ponds, infiltration swales, stormwater energy dissipation BMPs (e.g., rip rap or check dams), use of straw wattles, or any other approved BMP.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum

Date: January 25, 2013