

memorandum

DATE: February 22, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Celilo

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Scott Williams
Line Foreman III – TFDF-The Dalles

Proposed Action: Install Sho Fly Line on the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Underwood Tap 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 2575

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

Location: Skamania County, Washington

Line Corridor	Structures	TRS	County, State
Underwood Tap 115-kV Line	6/1	3N, 7E, Section 36	Skamania, Washington

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: The project will consist of building a short line tap that will include a span of conductors constructed under the Underwood Tap and North Bonneville-Midway transmission lines creating what BPA refers to a “Sho Fly Line.” The Sho Fly Line is within BPA fee-owned property and within the easement rights. Construction of this span would connect two lines in Stevenson, Washington, on land track B-C-7-A-27. Two structures will be placed consisting of six wood poles, conductor, and material to support the installation.

Access road maintenance will include to minor additions of crushed rock and a small culvert within the existing road prism to provide a stable base for equipment. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Frederick J. Walasavage
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Katherine S. Pierce or Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 22, 2013

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Underwood Tap 115-kV Transmission Line Sho Fly Line Install

Work Order #: 136364

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cultural review was completed for the project area. No conditions were identified. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the SHPO and appropriate tribes. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The project area is outside of the National Scenic Area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No health and safety issues are present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmlands are present in the project area. Those farmlands that are present will be available for use based on project design. BPA has worked with the landowner to maintain use of the land.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No special sources of water present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) None.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Frederick J Walasavage
 Frederick J. Walasavage
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: February 4, 2013