

memorandum

DATE: September 30, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Michael Marleau
Project Manager –TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Sacajawea Substation Expansion and Upgrade

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

Location: Walla Walla County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to expand its existing Sacajawea Substation in order to add new electrical equipment that would control abnormally high power flows on the Ice Harbor No. 2 line. The new equipment would alleviate the need to build a second 115-kilovolt (kV) line to the Ice Harbor Dam by limiting the power flow on the Ice Harbor line into Sacajawea Substation and preventing an overload. The substation fence would be expanded in the northwest corner of the existing substation by approximately 1.7 acres. This area is currently shrub-steppe, dominated by cheat grass. The expanded area would include an oil spill containment system for any oil-filled equipment and stormwater management. In addition, two new wood-pole transmission line structures would be added to the existing Ice Harbor-Franklin No. 2 115-kV transmission line just north of the Sacajawea Substation to reroute the line into the substation approximately 250 feet to the west. The interior of the substation would be graded and surfaced with switchyard rock that is similar to the existing site.

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.

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.

/s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Adecco

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 30, 2014

Attachments:

Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Provisions

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

BPA will include an inadvertent discovery plan in the project implementation plans and work crews will be notified of the plan. In the event that any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and cultural resource specialist. Notify the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office, interested tribes and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovered site, including any appropriate stabilization measures. In the case that the site is culturally sensitive, concealing the site from public view may be necessary.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site and restrict access to the site of discovery.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Sacajawea Substation Expansion and Upgrade

Work Order #: 00358305

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 SHPO concurred with a Determination of No Historic Properties Affected on April 19, 2011 for a fiber optic project in the same project area. The initiation of consultation was sent to SHPO and the appropriate tribes on August 25, 2014. The cultural resource specialist made a determination that No Historic Properties Will Be Affected for this project on August 26, 2014. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation concurred with the determination on September 9, 2014, with the inadvertent discovery plan in place. No response was received from SHPO or the remaining tribes, therefore, concurrence was assumed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No T&E species have been observed in the project area.	<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 No prime or unique farmlands occur in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present in the project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
 SHPO Concurrence Letter April 19, 2011
 Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Concurrent Letter September 9, 2014

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Date: September 30, 2014