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(8-89)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 2, 2012

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amit Sinha
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Installation of equipment at Wahkiakum Public Utility District's (PUD) Cathlamet Substation

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

Location: Cathlamet, Wahkiahum County, Washington; Township 8 North, Range 6 West, Section 12

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install metering equipment within Whakiakum PUD's expanded Cathlamet Substation. The PUD's substation expansion accommodates load growth in the Cathlamet area. BPA also proposes to construct two load disconnect switches, one just outside the substation fence line and the other within the fence line. Two new wood pole structures would be added between existing structures 9/1 and 9/2 and wood pole structure 9/2 would be replaced on the Wahkiakum Tap to Naselle Tap 115-kilovolt line. A temporary construction staging area would be located south of the existing substation fence line; minor tree and shrub removal could occur. The access road between pole 9/2 and 9/5 would be graveled to allow construction equipment and maintenance vehicles to access the site via BPA's existing right of way. This section of the access road is approximately 880 feet long and approximately 16 feet wide. BPA's proposed actions would allow equipment maintenance without customer outages.

On December 1, 2011, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the State of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis, the Cowlitz and Shoalwater Bay Indian tribes. In subsequent archaeological surveys on January 31 and May 18, 2012, no archaeological materials or historic properties were identified. DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of no effect. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe provided inadvertent discovery language that is attached to this Environmental Clearance Memo.

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/ Carolyn Sharp
Carolyn Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce Date: *July 2, 2012*
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
Cowlitz Indian Tribe Inadvertant Discovery Language
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

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INADVERTENT DISCOVERY LANGUAGE
[revised 080722]

In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activity, work in the immediate area (initially allowing for a 100' buffer; this number may vary by circumstance) must stop and the following actions taken:

1. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering; and
2. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site; and,
3. Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.

The project proponent will notify the concerned Tribes and all appropriate county, state, and federal agencies, including the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The agencies and Tribe(s) will discuss possible measures to remove or avoid cultural material, and will reach an agreement with the project proponent regarding actions to be taken and disposition of material.

If human remains are uncovered, appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified first, and the above steps followed. If the remains are determined to be Native, consultation with the affected Tribes will take place in order to mitigate the final disposition of said remains.

See the Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 27.53, "Archaeological Sites and Resources," for applicable state laws and statutes. See also Washington State Executive Order 05-05, "Archaeological and Cultural Resources." Additional state and federal law(s) may also apply.

Contact information:

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Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Installation of equipment at Wahkiakum Public Utility District's (PUD) Cathlamet Substation

Work Order #: 00246911

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.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources		X
Cowlitz Indian Tribe requests inclusion of language pertaining to the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources as attached.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	X	
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X	
4. Areas of special designation	X	
5. Health & safety	X	
6. Prime or unique farmlands	X	
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Other (describe)	X	

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):
Cowlitz Indian Tribe Inadvertant Discovery Language

Signed: */s/ Carolyn A. Sharp* Date: *July 2, 2012*