

memorandum

DATE: February 12, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Terry Kugler
Lineman Foreman III – TFSF-BELL

Proposed Action: Bank stabilization on Bell-Boundary No. 3 Transmission Line Structure 60/9

PP&A Project No.: 2,798

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

Location: Stevens County, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Spokane District

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform bank stabilization on the Colville River to protect the existing, double-circuit wood pole structure 60/9 on the 230-kilovolt (kV) Bell-Boundary No. 3 transmission line in Stevens County, Washington. The wood pole structure is located on the edge of an agricultural field where the transmission line corridor spans the Colville River, and bank erosion adjacent to the structure poses an immediate threat to structure stability. The proposed erosion control and soil stabilization project is necessary to maintain line reliability and prevent outages from potential structure failure at this location, which poses risks to public health and safety.

This project is designed to repair and prevent future bank erosion at the river crossing in and adjacent to the existing transmission line right of way easement. Proposed project activities include installing a riprap rock revetment, recontouring a scour hole upstream, removal of abandoned bridge piles and removal of accumulated debris. The project design includes the use of bioengineering techniques and natural products, including riprap with large woody debris and riparian planting, to the extent possible.

The project site is relatively flat and located on private property in a rural, agricultural area. There are existing roads and travel routes to access the project site. The proposed project is anticipated to occur in February-March 2014.

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. The project will not impact areas of great visual value and no project sites are within a governmentally designated scenic area.

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/ Makary A. Hutson
Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: February 12, 2014

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Bell-Boundary No. 3 Line Bank stabilization

Work Order #: 00349204

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 BPA archaeologist performed background research and found a previous survey had identified resources in the vicinity of the Project but outside the APE, DAHP Log No.: 110413-04-BPA. BPA proposed to have an archaeological monitor on site during ground disturbing activities, and Washington DAHP and interested parties concurred with determination of no adverse effect on the condition of having a monitor present (DAHP letter received 1/22/2014).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No known ESA-listed species were identified in the Project area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands The work must be performed in accordance with any and all conditions per the Nationwide Permit letter received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Erosion and sediment controls and stabilization must be implemented, as needed, to minimize impacts to the Colville River during construction and post-construction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 land use changes or land clearing activities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other – Visual Impacts - existing facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: January 27, 2014

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4