

memorandum

DATE: January 13, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Theresa Berry
Civil Engineer – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: McNary-Ross No. 1 Upgrade Project, Surface Impairment Removal between structures 88/2 and 89/1

Budget Information: Work Order #00232278

PP&A Project No.: 1876

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

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Location: Project activities would take place between structures 88/2 and 89/1, located in Klickitat County, WA, T2N R15E SEC08.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to address a surface impairment that was identified on the 345-kV McNary-Ross No. 1 transmission line. At this location, the distance from the conductor to the ground surface does not have adequate clearance for operation at 70°C. BPA proposes to re-shape the existing ground surface in this area to achieve adequate clearance. The proposed work would allow BPA's McNary-Ross No. 1 transmission line to meet current National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards for operation at 70°C.

At the project location, approximately 778 cubic yards of soil would be removed from the surface impairment and placed adjacent to the site to the west, or trucked to an off-site location. Approximately 2.46 acres of disturbance is anticipated. Work may be necessary on the 1.5 miles of access road from Highway 14 to the project site and would consist of light blading and rocking within the existing road prism.

Following the excavation and placement of soil, all disturbed areas would be stabilized for erosion and sediment control, and revegetated with native grasses. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project, and would be likely to disturb the ground, would include a combination of the following: a dump truck, a bulldozer, a backhoe, an excavator and work trucks.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Rick Yarde

Rick Yarde

Acting NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: January 13, 2012

Attachments

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: McNary-Ross No. 1 Upgrade Project, Surface Impairment at 89/1

Work Order #: 00232278

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 On January 9, 2012, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected". BPA received no response from the tribes. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and an environmental representative should 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) Known populations of gray wolf, bull trout, Ute ladies'-tresses and northern spotted owl occur far outside of the project areas. Further, the project areas do not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project areas are not adjacent to any recorded anadromous fish usage, and BMPs would be installed such that project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. It was determined that this project would have "No Effect" to T&E Species, or their habitat(s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation A Gorge Permit is not required for this project. The site is located on tribal trust land in the Gorge NSA and is exempt from NSA rules and regulations	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Oden W. Jahn

Date: January 13, 2012

Oden W. Jahn, KEPR-4