

memorandum

DATE: March 18, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dawneen Dostert
Project Manager – TERR-LMT

Proposed Action: Washington State Department of Transportation Parcel Sale and Utility Relocation

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Location: Clark County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to sell a 0.49 acre parcel of fee-owned transmission line right-of-way (ROW) to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), located within BPA's Ross – Lexington transmission line corridor adjacent to State Route (SR) 502 west of the City of Battleground, WA. Due to increasing traffic volumes, WSDOT is proposing to widen a portion of SR 502 ROW between Interstate 5 (I-5) and the City of Battleground, WA, and increase the number of travel lanes from one to two in each direction. Completion of the sale would allow WSDOT to improve mobility and safety, increase capacity, and reduce travel time along SR 502.

In order to complete the project, BPA would prepare and submit a Quitclaim Deed, and maintain a perpetual easement for access to BPA's Ross – Lexington transmission line. Following the transfer of ownership to WSDOT, Qwest Corporation/CenturyLink (QCCL) and Clark County Public Utility District (PUD) would relocate portions of their existing fiber and overhead transmission line, respectively, to the parcel. QCCL would install fiber in a trench and Clark PUD would install its three phase overhead transmission line on wood poles, each on the south side of the parcel. WSDOT would subsequently construct a new sidewalk, bicycle lane, and travel lane on the remaining portion of the parcel.

Resource Review: BPA reviewed potential impacts to vegetation, wetlands and floodplains, water, federally listed species and critical habitat, and cultural resources by the proposed project.

Existing Environment. The project site is located in Clark County, WA, on existing BPA fee-owned ROW property within the BPA Ross – Lexington transmission line corridor approximately two miles west of the intersection of SR 502 and Interstate 5. Vegetated areas of the project site are

previously disturbed with evidence of fill and grading. The area surrounding the project site consists of rural residences and cultivated farmland.

Vegetation. The project would remove existing vegetation comprised of invasive and non-native shrubs and grasses. Disturbed areas would be replanted with combination of native woody and herbaceous species approved per the revegetation specifications in WSDOT's Final Critical Areas Mitigation Plan, dated January 2012. No sensitive or federally-listed plant species would be affected.

Water, Wetlands, and Floodplains. WSDOT identified and delineated a 0.26 acre palustrine emergent wetland complex which would be directly impacted by construction activities. WSDOT received a Section 404 permit (NWS-2009-1093) on March 30, 2012 from the US Army Corps of Engineers, and would utilize best management practices (BMPs) and measures from its Final Critical Areas Mitigation Plan to minimize disturbance to wetlands and prevent erosion and runoff from construction activities from entering wetlands or other water resources. There are no perennial or intermittent streams located within the project site.

Federally Listed Wildlife Species and Critical Habitat. The proposed project would have no effect on these species or their critical habitat located in Clark County because suitable habitat does not exist within the project area.

Cultural Resources. On January 24, 2013, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Based on a cultural resource survey conducted by Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW), BPA determined the proposed project would have no effect on cultural resources or historic properties. The Washington State DAHP subsequently concurred with BPA's determination in a letter dated January 29, 2013.

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, the 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/ Zachary R. Gustafson
Zachary R. Gustafson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 18, 2013

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Provisions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Natural Resources

- Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that are protective of wetlands and water resources.
- Replant disturbed areas with a combination of native woody and herbaceous species approved per the revegetation specifications in WSDOT's Final Critical Areas Mitigation Plan.

Cultural Resources

In the event any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Washington State DAHP, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Washington State Department of Transportation Parcel Sale and Utility Relocation

Work Order #: 184006 Task 01

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that are protective of wetlands and water resources.	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Zachary Gustafson

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