

memorandum

DATE: September 17, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Micah Bandurraga
Access Road Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Gary Beck
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Columbia Falls-Kalispell Transmission Line, road approach installation and structure relocation.

PP&A Project No.: 3048

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

Location: As identified in table below.

Township	Range	Section	County
29N	20W	29, 30	Flathead

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install two road approaches and one cross drain culvert between structures 9/3 and 9/4 of the Columbia Falls-Kalispell transmission line. The approaches and culvert are needed to allow maintenance vehicles to access the right-of-way so BPA's Line Crew can perform an emergency relocation of structure 9/5. Structure 9/5 is being encroached by the adjacent stream and the structure will ultimately fail if not relocated by this fall. Placement of structure 9/5 at its new location will be monitored by a BPA contract archaeologist. The placement of the approaches and the cross drain will not involve any ground disturbance. Fill for the approaches will be brought in from an offsite quarry and fill material will be placed in the existing road depression. The cross drain culvert will be placed in an existing drainage and backfilled with fill material from the same quarry.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to BPA's transmission line system facilities which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

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/ Phil Smith, for
Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: September 17, 2014

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Columbia Falls-Kalispell road approach installation and structure 9/5 relocation

Work Order #: 00343019

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 Installation of road approaches and cross drain will not disturb existing ground topography. Work will add fill material to road approach locations and cross drain location. Placement of relocated structure will be monitored by a BPA contract archaeologist.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present	<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	<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"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith

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