

memorandum

DATE: November 17, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jennifer Gumm
Project Manager – TPC/BELL-1

Proposed Action: Inland Power & Light 230-kilovolt (kV) Substation Project

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities in a Previously Disturbed Area.

Location: City of Mead, Spokane County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Inland Power & Light (IP&L)

Description of the Proposed Action: To provide a tap point for IP&L, BPA would do the following:

1. Install two new 35-foot tall disconnect switch structures under the BPA Bell-Boundary line located about 50 feet south of tower 5/2 and 50 feet north of tower 5/5. Construction of each lattice-steel, disconnect switch structure would require four holes 6-8 feet deep in a rectangular pattern 34 feet wide (to match the lines above) by 10 feet, and would be located on BPA Right-of-Way (ROW) underneath the existing transmission line.
2. BPA may need to construct a new wood pole dead-end transmission line structure between towers 5/4 and 5/5 of the BPA Bell-Boundary transmission line. If needed, this structure would require 2-3 wooden poles installed approximately 10 feet deep in the ground. This structure would be located in the middle of BPA ROW, perpendicular to IP&L's new substation location between towers 5/4 and 5/5, and would support the end of the tap line to IP&L's substation.
3. Install new metering equipment within IP&L's new Day Mt. Spokane Substation control house.

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.

A BPA contract archeologist conducted background research on the natural and cultural landscape of the project area using the Washington records database. No historic sites were identified within a mile of the APE and an archeological field survey confirmed that no historic properties will be affected as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, it was **BPA's determination that no historic properties will be affected** as a result of the proposed project. On October 17th, 2011, BPA sent letters along with a copy of the cultural resources report and findings to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation. In a letter dated October 19, 2011, the Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project. On November 2, 2012, the Spokane Tribe sent a letter to BPA stating that after doing additional research, no cultural resources have been identified and agreeing with BPA's determination. No response was received from the Colville Tribe.

A review of the Spokane County, Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species recorded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicated the potential presence of two plant species; the Spalding's silene (*Silene spaldingii*) and the Ute ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). The lack of water features confirmed the absence of other ESA-listed species and plants throughout the project area. Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of no effect on those two ESA-listed plant species based on lack of habitat within the project area which is heavily impacted by urban residential development on a BPA ROW.

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/ Daniel A. Gambetta

Daniel A. Gambetta

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Richard Yarde for

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 17, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Inland Power & Light 230-kilovolt Substation Project

Work Order #: 00274608 (Metering) and 00274611 (Tap Construction)

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	<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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Daniel A. Gambetta

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