DATE: March 22, 2012

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joan Kendall
   Project Manager – TERR-3

**Proposed Action:** AMENDED: Acquisition of a portion of Cowlitz County Public Utility District’s (CCPUD) 115-kV transmission line from BPA’s Longview Substation to CCPUD’s Washington Way Substation

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

**Location:** Township 8 North, Range 3 West, Section 36, and Township 8 North, Range 2 West, Sections 31 and 32 in Cowlitz County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to acquire a 1.5 mile portion of CCPUD’s existing Longview-Washington Way 115-kV transmission line in order to provide a parallel transmission path for its existing Longview-Cowlitz No. 1 transmission line and to comply with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)/Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) reliability standards. Amending a February 24, 2012, environmental clearance memorandum, BPA also proposes to enter into an operation and maintenance agreement with CCPUD for the Longview-Washington Way line.

In 2010, thermal overload conditions affected BPA’s existing Longview-Cowlitz 115-kV No. 1 transmission line, impacting CCPUD’s system at the time. BPA and CCPUD had previously developed a mitigation plan for such overloads, which are not allowed per NERC standards. The mitigation plan provides for a new 115-kV line circuit between BPA’s Longview and Cowlitz Substation, providing a secondary 115-kV transmission path (circuit) for power to flow on. This new circuit would satisfy NERC/WECC standards. CCPUD has agreed to sell a portion of its 115-kV circuit, between Longview-Washington Way to BPA. BPA would be the transmission operator of the line while CCPUD would perform maintenance, including vegetation management on the line from BPA’s Longview Substation to its Washington Way Substation. As part of the operation and maintenance agreement, CCPUD would provide notice to BPA when it plans to perform work at BPA’s Longview Substation.

**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/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory
Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce Date: March 22, 2012
Katherine S. Pierce – KEC-4
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
**Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions**

**Name of Proposed Project:** REVISED: Acquisition of Cowlitz CPUD’s 115-kV transmission line from BPA’s Longview Substation to Cowlitz CPUD’s Washington Way Substation

**Work Order #:** 283852, task 03

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resources</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance</th>
<th>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. T &amp; E Species, or their habitat(s)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Floodplains or wetlands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Areas of special designation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Health &amp; safety</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Prime or unique farmlands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Special sources of water</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Other (describe)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory  Date: March 22, 2012