

memorandum

DATE: February 28, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Molly Kovaka
Project Manager, TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Telephony Conduit Installation at Olympia Substation

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 – Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Location: Tumwater, Thurston County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install buried telephony cable and related conduit in Thurston County, Washington, adjacent to its existing Olympia Substation. The purpose of this project is to increase the reliability of BPA's communications into and out of this substation and to correct outstanding safety issues regarding the existing telephone cable and communications pedestal. Installation of the buried telephony cable and conduit would commence at the existing CenturyLink communications pedestal adjacent to BPA's Olympia Substation. From this pedestal, directional boring would be utilized to install a new 4-inch diameter conduit from the pedestal to the control house building at BPA's Olympia Substation. Once the conduit is in place, new telephony cable would be installed through the conduit and final installation would occur within Olympia Substation's control house building so that the communications link can be established.

BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, and the Squaxin Island Tribe on December 19, 2012. A field site survey was conducted in December 2012; and, on January 29, 2013, BPA submitted a cultural resource report determining that no historic properties would be affected as a result of the proposed project. On February 4, 2013, DAHP concurred with BPA's determination. Additionally, on February 6, 2013, the Nisqually Indian Tribe also concurred with BPA's determination. The other tribes did not respond to the report.

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/ Andrew M. Montaño
Andrew M. Montaño, PMP
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 28, 2013

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Telephony Conduit Installation at Olympia Substation

Work Order #: 00313063

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 <i>All proposed work will occur within previously disturbed areas. No changes will be made to existing building.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) <i>All proposed work will occur within existing substation yard. No species present.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands <i>n/a</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation <i>n/a</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety <i>n/a</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands <i>n/a</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water <i>n/a</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Andrew M. Montaña

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