

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 18, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Kerry Cook
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Perform research of groundwater drainage and flooding issues at Covington Complex through the installation of four groundwater monitoring wells

PP&A Project No.: PP&A-1772

Budget Information: Work Order #00246440

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B3.6 Siting/ construction/operation/decommissioning of facilities for bench-scale research, conventional laboratory operations, small-scale research and development and pilot projects.

Location: Covington Substation in King County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is encountering seasonal groundwater seepage problems at the Covington Substation that cause flooding in both the control house and the untanking tower. In order to investigate the root cause of this problem, BPA proposes to perform a drainage evaluation consisting of video inspection of the drain lines and groundwater level monitoring through the installation of 4 monitoring wells. Two wells will be installed around the control house and two near the untanking tower, each dug to a depth of 20 feet. Wells will be used to evaluate the hydrogeologic conditions through the installation of automatic pressure transducers and additional automatic water level recording instruments. All work will be conducted on BPA property and within the fenced complex.

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, April 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). 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 action with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impact [40 C.F.R. 1508(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) introduce hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or violate the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act - excluding petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning

Environmental Scientist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: October 18, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Covington Groundwater Monitoring Project

Work Order #: 00246440 PP&A Project No.: PP&A-1772

Prepared by: Chad Browning Routing: KEPR-4 Date: 10/12/10

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Effect	No Effect with conditions
1. 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 agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Due to historical contamination issues, all groundwater pumped to the surface will be properly handled and analyzed before disposal.