

memorandum

DATE: April 23, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Corinn Castro
Program Management Engineer – TELM-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Spacer replacement along the Hanford-Wautoma #1 and #2 (substation to substation) transmission lines

Budget Information: Work Order # 00255064

PP&A Project No.: 1512 and 1513

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

B1.3, Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights of way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment...routine maintenance activities, corrective....are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

Location: Spacer replacement activities will occur along the indicated portions of the subject transmission lines shown above. The proposed project is located in Benton County, Washington, being within the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Tri-Cities District. Sections, Townships and Ranges of the subject corridor are shown below.

County	Township/Range	Sections
Benton	14N/26E	28,33
	13N/26E	4,9,16,17,19,20,30
	13N/25E	25,26,27,33,34,35
	12N/25E	4,5,6,7
	12N/24E	11,12,14,15,16,20,21

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA has a need to replace old and worn spacer dampers along the 19-mile Hanford-Wautoma #1 and #2 transmission lines. The project will involve the activities of riding the transmission lines with carts and changing the spacers as the carts proceed. Carts and new spacers will be placed on the line using a helicopter. Contract construction crews will then access the carts to perform the work. Fly yards will be established to stage the carts and spacers for pick up and delivery by the helicopter. The majority of the work will be above ground with only minimal support vehicles being on the ground below the work areas. All vehicles will remain on existing access roads. The work will provide system reliability. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). 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, 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; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

With the actions 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/ Philip W. Smith for

Shawn Barndt

Environmental Scientist – KEPR-Pasco

Concur: Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 23, 2010

Attachments:

Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Requirements Memorandum

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Spacer Replacement along the Hanford-Wautoma #1 and #2 (Substation to Substation) Transmission Lines.

Work Order #: 255064 **PP&A Project No.:** 1512 and 1513

Prepared by: Shawn Barndt **Routing:** KEPR-Pasco **Date:** 4/21/10

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

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources Cultural monitor Gable Butte area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Activity limitation near raven and red-tailed hawk nests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Environmental Requirements Memorandum