

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 12, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ken Adamson
Project Manager - TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Improve access roads of the Keeler-Tillamook No. 1 transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 1572

Budget Information: Work Order: 00219978 Task: 3

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: The proposed project is located in Tillamook County, Oregon, in the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Chemawa Transmission Line Maintenance (TLM) District.

Proposed by: BPA. Improvements will be made to the access roads that lead to structures in the 39 and 48-54 miles of the Keeler-Tillamook #1 transmission line.

Description of the Proposed Action:

Access roads from 39/6 to 39/13:

Work includes blading, rocking, installing cross-drain culverts, and installing a bridge over Cedar Creek on existing access roads. The bridge construction will take place during the in-water work period established by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and is being coordinated with the ODFW State Fish Biologist.

Access roads from 48/4 to 52/8:

Work includes improving existing access roads by blading, rocking, installing cross-drain culverts, and improving approaches to the state highway.

Access roads from 52/9 to 54/2:

Work includes blading, rocking, and installation of cross-drain culverts on existing access roads. Additionally, 500 feet of new access road will be constructed to access tower 53/6.

Access roads from 54/3 to 54/13:

Work includes blading, rocking, and installation of cross-drain culverts on existing access roads.

Analysis:

Environmentally sensitive resources:

In response to Sec. 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has prepared an ESA Effects Determination for the proposed project. A determination of “No Effect” was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Oregon coast Coho salmon:

Oregon coast Coho salmon are known to inhabit Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Wilson River. The bridge installation planned in this area will take place during the in-water work period established by ODFW and will take place above the ordinary high water mark. This portion of the project has been coordinated with the ODFW State Fish Biologist.

Marbled murrelet:

The work planned in the 50 to 54 mile occurs within or within a 0.25 mile of Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Unit OR-01-c. No routine access road maintenance activities will be allowed in or within 0.25 miles of critical habitat during the core breeding season, **from April 1 - August 5**.

Northern spotted owl:

The work planned in the 50 to 54 mile occurs in or within 0.25 miles of Northern spotted owl Critical Habitat unit 95. The road work is scheduled outside seasonal restrictions (**March 1 - June 30**). This portion of the project will start after August 5, following the restrictions listed above for marbled murrelet.

Cultural Resources:

A cultural survey report was completed on March 13, 2009 there were no findings of cultural significance along the proposed 500 feet of new road construction to provide access to tower 53/6. BPA has determined the project will have “No Adverse Effect” on cultural resources. In the event that ground-disturbing activities unearth any cultural/historic or prehistoric materials, work will cease immediately; BPA will be notified immediately and work will not resume until a professional archaeologist has evaluated the site.

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) 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 release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. The proposal will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the ESA, or Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation 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/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff

Environmental Engineer

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 12, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Keeler-Tillamook Transmission Line Access Road Project

Work Order #: 00219978 PP&A Project No.: 1572

Prepared by: Aaron Shurtliff Routing: KEPR-4 Date: 5/7/10

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, the environmental lead will immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work planned in the 50 to 54 mile occurs in or within 0.25 miles of Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Unit OR-01-c. No work allowed in area until after August 5, 2009. • The work planned in the 50 to 54 mile occurs in or within 0.25 miles of Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat unit 95. No work allowed in area until after August 5, 2009. • The bridge work over Cedar Creek will be completed within the in-water work period established by ODFW and is being coordinated with the ODFW fish biologist. 		
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

- ESA Effects Determination