

# memorandum

DATE: March 15, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Rick Taylor  
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Monroe-Custer No. 1 and 2 500-kV transmission line structure 16/2 access road improvement and bridge replacement project

**Budget Information:** Work Order # 00219785

**PP&A Project No.:** 953

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

**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:** BPA's proposed Monroe-Custer 500-kV transmission line No. 1 and No. 2 structure 16/2 access road improvement and bridge replacement project is located in Snohomish County, Washington, in BPA's North Region, Covington District. Township, Range, and Section crossed by the proposed project is listed below:

Township	Range	Section
30N	6E	33

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace an existing dilapidated bridge across Little Pilchuck Creek, install three culverts in drainage ditches near the bridge, and repair 2,000 feet of existing on and off right-of-way (ROW) access roads along mile 16 of the Monroe-Custer No. 1 and No. 2 transmission lines. Project work includes: excavation for bridge removal and installation, grading and shaping of roads, placing and compacting road surfacing, and culvert installation.

Construction of this project is planned for summer/early fall of 2010.

**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/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

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

DATE: March 15, 2010

Attachments:  
Biological Assessment  
Environmental Checklist

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Monroe-Custer No. 1 Transmission Line Structure 16/2 Access Road Improvement and Bridge Replacement Project.

**Work Order #:** 00219785

**PP&A Project No.:** PP&A-953

**Prepared by:** Laura Roberts

**Routing:** KEP-4

**Date:** 03/04/10

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

<b>Environmental Resources</b>	<b>No Adverse Effect</b>	<b>No Adverse Effect with conditions</b>
1. Cultural Resources BPA determined no effect. No response was received from SHPO to concurrence letter during 30 day waiting period.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Informal consultation with USFWS and NMFS. Follow all conditions within the Biological Assessment, concurrence letters and USFWS section 10 Permit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands NWP 12, pre-notification not required, project disturbance <1/10 acre, all NWP and regional guidelines will be followed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>