

memorandum

DATE: May 26, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-Bell-1

SUBJECT: Environmental Cleareance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Improve existing access roads in mile 52 of the Rattlesnake-Garrison #1 transmission line and realign access roads in mile 7 and mile 8 of the Garrison-Anaconda #1 transmission line

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1660

Budget Information: 189796

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

- B1.13 Construction, acquisition, and relocation of onsite pathways and short onsite access roads and railroads.
- 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 projects are located in Montana; refer to the tables below for specific project location information:

Location	Township	Range	Section	County
Rattlesnake-Garrison #1 52/5 to 52/7	9N	12W	01	Granite

Location	Township	Range	Section	County
Garrison-Anaconda #1 7/2 to 7/3	8N	10W	6	Powell
Garrison-Anaconda #1 8/2 to 8/6	8N	10W	8, 7	Powell

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed project involves improving portions of the existing access road system for the subject transmission lines. Road improvements include blading existing road surfaces, realigning of steep roads to reduce grade, placing and compacting rock surfacing to improve drivability, and installing drainage devices to protect roads from erosion. Site-specific details are as follows:

Rattlesnake-Garrison, 52/5 to 52/7

Approximately 5,000 feet of existing roadway will be bladed and rocked. Road drainage improvements include installing a culvert in a dry draw to redirect storm water away from the road surface and constructing drain dips to redirect water off the road surface. All road improvements will take place in the existing road prism.

Garrison-Anaconda, 7/2 to 7/3

Approximately 3,000 feet of existing roadway will be realigned and rocked. Realignment of the road is necessary to reduce steepness during vehicle travel. Road drainage improvements include constructing drain dips to redirect water off the road surface.

Garrison-Anaconda, 8/2 to 8/6

Approximately 5,000 feet of existing roadway will be realigned and rocked. Realignment of the road is necessary to reduce steepness during vehicle travel. Road drainage improvements include constructing drain dips to redirect water off the road surface.

Erosion control devices (i.e. silt fencing, etc) will be installed, as needed, to protect adjacent water resources from sedimentation during all road improvement activities. All rock surfacing will be imported from an offsite commercial quarry. The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the subject transmission lines, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

Analysis:**ESA Listed Species and Habitat**

In response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has prepared an Effects Determination for the proposed project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Cultural Resources

A cultural resources survey and inventory was completed in May 2009 for the Garrison-Anaconda road realignment project. Based on the presence of an isolated artifact, the survey report recommended shifting the proposed road realignment pathway 33 to 49.5 ft west of the existing tree line, along the portion of project area south of structure 8/3, to avoid disturbing potential buried cultural deposits. Additional probes were excavated in the immediate vicinity of the isolated artifact to explore the potential of further subsurface cultural deposits but no additional cultural material was identified. No other cultural issues were identified at the other realignment locations during the survey. In June 2009, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred that the proposed action would have "No Effect" on historic properties.

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 EFH 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/ Philip W. Smith for
Michael A. Rosales
Physical Scientist - Environment

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

DATE: May 26, 2010

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination for T&E Species

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Rattlesnake-Garrison #1, mile 52
Garrison-Anaconda #1, mile 7 and mile 8

Work Order #: 189796 **PP&A Project No.:** PP&A 1660

Prepared by: M. Rosales **Routing:** KEPR-Bell-1 **Date:** May 21, 2010

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"> ▪ For the Rattlesnake-Garrison, 52/5 to 52/7 road project, no new ground disturbing activities are planned or anticipated. All road maintenance work will be confined to the existing road prism or previously disturbed areas therefore a cultural survey was not initiated. ▪ For the Garrison-Anaconda, 7/2 to 7/3 and 8/2 to 8/6 road project, a cultural survey was conducted as realignment of the road would affect nondisturbed areas. No cultural issues were identified with the exception at 8/3 where it was recommended shifting the proposed realignment pathway 33 to 50 feet west of the existing tree line, along the portion of project area south of structure 8/3 to avoid potential buried cultural deposits. In June 2009, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred that the proposed action would have no effect on historic properties. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bull trout may inhabit streams that are within ½ mile of the subject transmission line. For this project, road improvements are not planned near water resources containing listed fish species; therefore, there will be “No Effect” to these listed species or critical/essential fish habitat. ▪ Although Canada lynx has the potential to be present within ½ mile of the project area, project activities are not expected to alter or affect habitat conditions for lynx prey species or affect existing lynx habitat and/or distribution. With respect to potential habitat conditions and possible future occupancy of this area by Canada lynx, the proposed project is not expected to result in conditions that would preclude use by Canada lynx; therefore, this project will have “No Effect” on Canada lynx or its critical habitat. 		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water resources (streams, ponds, wetlands) are present within ½ mile of the project area. For this project, road repairs are not expected to affect these water resources but erosion control devices will be installed as needed to prevent sedimentation or other degradation of these resources. 		
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

8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations

9. Pollution control at Federal facilities

10. Other

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):