

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 25, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darin Bowman
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road repair including reconstructing, grading, and shaping of roads, placing and compacting of rock surfacing, installation of gates, installation and maintenance of erosion control and water drainage features, and restoration of disturbed areas.

Budget Information: Work Order # 00259661

PP&A Project No.: 1738

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance activities...for...rights-of-way, infrastructures (e.g.. roads)...routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain and preserve infrastructures...in a condition suitable for the facility to be used for its designated purpose.

Location: The project area is a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) access road located on or leading to the Ross-Lexington #1, 115-kV transmission line between structures 37/3 to 38/2. The project area is located in Cowlitz County, Washington just east of the town of Kelso, Washington.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to re-construct an existing access road along the Ross-Lexington #1 transmission line right-of-way (ROW) located in Cowlitz County, Washington. During the winter of 2008-09 a portion of the access road washed out during heavy rain, making passage impossible. The remaining portions of the road are heavily damaged and in dire need of repair. The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the right of way which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. The proposed maintenance will reopen access to transmission line structure 38/2. The project includes but is not limited to:

- Blading, reshaping, grading, and compacting existing road surfaces
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of aggregate and rip-rap
- Constructing or reconditioning of water drainage features
- Placing Geotextile Fabric
- Installation of gates

All proposed work will occur within the existing road prism and should not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbed. No unauthorized construction activities will occur in

any water body including streams, ponds, wetlands, etc. No machinery, construction equipment, or vehicles will be allowed in any stream or other water body unless authorized by a permit.

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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, 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 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.

BPA has determined the project will have "No Effect" on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. 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.

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 un-permitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

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/ Joseph C. Sharpe, for:

Chad Browning
Biological Scientist (Environmental)

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

DATE: August 25, 2010

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Ross-Lexington No.1 Access Road Repair Project

Work Order #: 00259661 **PP&A Project No.:** 1738

Prepared by: Chad Browning **Routing:** KEPR-4 **Date:** 8/10/10

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>