

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 8, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Dawneen Dostert
Project Manager – TERR-LMT

Proposed Action: New access road construction to include clearing, 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 # 00230995

PP&A Project No.: 1534

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.13 Construction/acquisition/relocation of onsite pathways, short onsite access roads/railroads.

Location: The project area is confined to the existing and proposed access roads around the right-of-way (ROW) corridor of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Ross-Lexington 230-kV transmission line located just east of the town of La Center, Washington. The work is needed between mile 15 structure 1, (15/1) to mile 15 structure 2 (15/2). The project area is located in Clark County, Washington.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to conduct access road construction at a specific site along the the Ross-Lexington No.1, 115-kV transmission line. This new access road is needed in order to provide access to transmission structures 15/1 and 15/2. The previous access road is no longer accessible due to property owner restrictions. Unrestricted access to transmission structures is a critical aspect of the Transmission Line Maintenance Program, which helps to insure the safety, operation, and reliability of the Ross-Lexington 115-kV transmission line. The proposed work involves two distinct sections. In the first section, approximately 2,000 lineal feet of road reconstruction or improvement work would take place on existing roadbed and should not result in disturbance outside of previously disturbed roadbed. Section two would involve approximately 600 lineal feet of new roadbed construction. The project in both sections includes but is not limited to:

- Reshaping, grading and compacting existing road surfaces and turnouts
- Hauling, placing, and shaping of aggregate
- Constructing water bars, drain dips and outlet ditches
- Installation of a drainage culvert
- Watering and compacting subgrade and aggregate
- Placing Geotextile Fabric
- Installation of gates

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/ Chad Browning

Chad Browning

Physical Scientist Environmental

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: June 8, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

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

Work Order #: 00230995 PP&A Project No.: 1534

Prepared by: Chad Browning Routing: KEPR-4 Date: 6/2/10

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"> • Concurrence by Washington SHPO and the appropriate tribe(s) on BPA's No Effect determination. • 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland bordering existing roadbed will not be impacted through reconstruction and improvement activities. If during construction activities impact to the wetland becomes unavoidable, work will stop and the environmental representative will be contacted. 		
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"/>