

memorandum

DATE: August 12, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Erich Orth
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Replacement of twenty 22-L structures on the Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 230-kV Transmission Line

PP&A Project No.: 1704

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 designated purpose.

Location: The Project is located in Gray’s Harbor County, Washington between the towns of Aberdeen and Central Park, Washington. The Project is located in the following sections:

Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 (Structues 12/3 through 18/2)

Township	Range	Sections	Structure
17 N	8 W	3,4,5,7,8,10	12/3, 12/4, 12/5, 13/1, 13/4, 14/1, 14/3, 14/4
17 N	9 W	1,2,3,12	15/2, 15/6, 15/7, 16/1, 16/2, 16/3, 16/5, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3
18 N	9 W	33,34	17/4, 18/2

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: During recent storm events, several steel lattice tower failures have occurred on the Satsop-Aberdeen #2 transmission line. These failures have caused line outages necessitating BPA to perform emergency tower replacement and repairs to maintain service loads. Since 1999, high winds have caused 5 towers to fail. Four of these failures occurred within the last 4 years. In addition, high winds have left another 5 towers leaning and in need of replacement. The tower failures have been limited to the 22L tower type. In order to prevent future tower failures, BPA is proposing to replace twenty 22L structures, located in an area susceptible to high winds, along a 6-mile stretch of the Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 transmission line.

Project work would involve removal of the existing towers and building replacement towers, replacing insulators, and attaching the existing conductor to the new towers. Equipment needed for the work would include an excavator or backhoe for digging tower footings, a crane for

lifting assembled tower steel components, bucket trucks, and support vehicles. A bulldozer could be used to construct earthen landings at the tower sites so equipment can be operated safely. To avoid future tower failures, work is expected to begin in late summer 2010 and completed in the fall before the winter storm season.

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.

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/ Greg P. Tippetts, for:

Philip W. Smith

Manager, Regional and Technical Services

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 12, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Access Road Improvement for Satsop-Aberdeen No. 2 and No. 3, and the Aberdeen Tap to South Elma-Cosmopolis transmission lines

Work Order #: 256493 **PP&A Project No.:** 1697

Prepared by: Phil Smith **Routing:** KEPR **Date:** 06/28/10

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event that any archaeological material is encountered during construction, work will be halted in the vicinity of the find and the environmental lead will immediately be notified. Work will not resume until after the finds can be inspected and assessed. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) ESA Effects Determination attached	<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"/>