

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 3, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Corinn Castro
Project Manager - TELM-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Replace spacer dampers along the Wautoma-Rock Creek No. 1 500-kV Transmission Line.

Budget Information: Work Order # 00234527

PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1507

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: Wautoma-Rock Creek No. 1 500-kV Transmission Line. The proposed project is located in Benton, Yakima and Klickitat counties, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: In order to provide continued system reliability, BPA proposes to replace old and worn spacer dampers along approximately 65.1 miles of Wautoma-Rock Creek No. 1 500-kV Transmission Line. Manned aerial carts that ride on the transmission line conductors will be used to change out the spacers. The carts will be placed on the transmission line by a helicopter before the line crews access the carts to perform the work. New spacers will be flown to the carts and delivered by helicopter. Once the old spacers are changed, they will be picked up by helicopter and transported to a pickup area before being sent to a recycling center. The majority of the work will be above ground with minimal support from vehicles and crews on the ground. All vehicles will remain on existing access roads. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Wiley Howington

John Wiley Howington
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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

Date: March 3, 2010

Attachments:

Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species
Species Lists: Klickitat, Yakima and Benton counties, Washington
Environmental Checklist

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Wautoma-Rock Creek No. 1 Spacer Replacements

Work Order #: 00234527 PP&A Project No.: PP&A 1507

Prepared by: John Wiley Howington Routing: KEP-4 Date: 2/17/10

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 All work above ground with no ground disturbance – Washington SHPO concurrence received 2/11/10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>