

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 9, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Steve Knudsen
PTL-5

Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE) propose to enter into a new electricity transmission transfer agreement.

Budget Information: WO# 00003863 Task# 01

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.8 - New electricity transmission agreements, and modifications to existing transmission arrangements, to use a transmission facility of one system to transfer power of and for another system, if no new generation projects would be involved and no physical changes in the transmission system would be made beyond the previously developed facility area.

Location: Portland, Oregon

Proposed by: BPA and PSE

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to enter into a new electricity transmission transfer agreement with PSE. This proposed agreement is settlement for energy losses at the Quilcene Substation for December 2005 through January 2007.

Under an existing transfer agreement with PSE, Contract No. 14-03-37043, BPA is responsible for delivering power and energy to PSE's Quilcene Substation. The existing transfer agreement stipulates that PSE is responsible for scheduling to BPA as make-up energy the amount of electric energy which is estimated to be the amount, so adjusted for losses, which BPA will deliver on each hour. During the period December 2005 through January 2007, PSE schedules to BPA, adjusted for losses, totaled 5,119 MWh less than BPA deliveries to the Quilcene Substation. BPA determined the value of energy not scheduled to BPA to be \$316,000, or an equivalence of 9,433 MWh.

Under the proposed electricity transmission transfer agreement, Contract No. 10PB-12243, PSE has agreed to compensate BPA for energy losses at the Quilcene Substation by delivering an additional 9,433 MWh of energy as make-up power to BPA. Delivery of energy will made between the dates of June 15, 2010 through June 30, 2010. No new generation projects are required for the deliveries, and no physical changes in the transmission system are required beyond the previously developed facility areas.

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, Apr. 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. 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/ Sandra Ackley, June 9, 2010
Sandra Ackley
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

DATE: June 9, 2010

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer