

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Richard Heredia
Project Manager – TELF-TPP-3

Proposed Action: Access road improvement project for structure 12/1 of the Snoking Tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 Transmission Line.

PP&A Project No.: 956

Budget Information: 219977

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

Location: Approximately nine miles south of Snohomish, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to construct a permanent access road to improve vehicle access to the 115-kV Snoking Tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 Transmission Line. The project would involve constructing an approximately 760-foot long by 14-foot wide access road to structure 12/1. The project would also involve the installation of three culverts to help preserve the site's existing hydrology and increase the longevity of the proposed access road. Project activities would occur in wetland areas, so the road has been designed to minimize any impacts to the wetlands. The road would be built on a layer of geotextile fabric followed by a 12-inch layer of six-inch minus quarry spalls, followed by another layer of geotextile fabric, and finally a four-inch layer of 1 ½ inch minus crushed rock for the travel surface. Best Management Practices (BMPs), including: working in the dry season, installing sediment catch basins, and others where appropriate would be implemented to further minimize any impact from the road construction.

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, April 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, Jul. 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 action with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impact [40 C.F.R. 1508(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 release, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. 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, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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

DATE: March 12, 2010

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Effects Determination

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Access road improvement project for structure 12/1 of the Snoking Tap to Echo Lake-Monroe No. 1 Transmission Line.

Work Order #: 219977 **PP&A Project No.:** 956

Prepared by: Oden Jahn **Routing:** KEPR-4 **Date:** 3/3/10

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 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work may not begin on this project until the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application has been reviewed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, the permit has been issued. Compensatory mitigation credits must be arranged and purchased prior to the commencement of work. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>