

memorandum

DATE: March 8, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: James Hall
Public Utilities Specialist – TPC-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE) are entering into a Balancing Authority Area Service Agreement (BAASA). PSE has requested that the BPA transfer PSE's Hopkins Ridge Generation (Hopkins Ridge) generation plant from BPA's Balancing Authority Area (BAA) into PSE's BAA by establishing a new metering/telemetry interchange.

Budget Information: Work Order 00237023 and Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.1 Establishment and implementation of contracts, marketing plans, policies....

B4.6 Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area....

Location: PSE's Hopkins Ridge Generation Project, Columbia County, WA; the following BPA facilities: 1) Dittmer Control Center in Vancouver, WA; 2) Munro Control Center in Spokane, WA; 3) Maple Valley Substation in Maple Valley, WA ; 4) Covington Substation in Covington, WA.

Proposed by: BPA and PSE

Description of the Proposed Action: PSE has requested that the BPA transfer PSE's Hopkins Ridge generation plant from BPA's BAA into PSE's BAA by establishing a new metering/telemetry interchange. In order to implement the proposed action, BPA would conduct the following:

Dittmer and Munro Control Centers

BPA would retire and remove the dial automatic telephone system, internal to BPA, and redundant automatic ringdown circuits and associated end equipment. This equipment provided dispatching service from BPA and is not needed after the balancing authority change.

BPA would disable generation inter control center protocol connections and equipment for the Hopkins Ridge generating system.

BPA would send kilowatt hour data quantity (kWh) hourly to PSE's Redmond Control Center from BPA's Dittmer Control Center using existing Electric Industry Data Exchange protocol. BPA will continue to acquire kWh data from the metering installed at Klickitat County Public Utility District's (KPUD) E.E. Clouse Substation, which measures the interchange.

BPA would install Western Electricity Coordination Council compliant Alternating Current Remedial Action Scheme (AC-RAS) for Automatic Generation Control (AGC) suspend signal capability between Dittmer, Munro, and PSE's Redmond control centers. Signals are required to be sent to PSE to suspend PSE's AGC if the Hopkins Ridge generation is tripped via BPA's Main Grid AC-RAS.

BPA would add transfer trip tone shelves at BPA's Dittmer and Munro control centers. Geographically alternate routed circuits will be added between BPA's Dittmer Control Center-Maple Valley and Munro Control Center-Covington.

BPA would perform software and procedural changes required at BPA's Dittmer and Munro Control Centers.

Maple Valley Substation

BPA would install a circuit drop (cross connect) for the AGC suspend tone signals for connection to the BPA/PSE communication cable between BPA's Maple Valley Substation and PSE's Talbot Substation.

BPA would install audio isolation transformers at the cable crossconnect point to connect AGC suspend send and receive signals to existing wire pairs. This provides limited protection for the circuit end equipment from voltage differentials between the two station ground mats.

Covington Substation

BPA would install a circuit drop for tone signals, for cross connection to PSE's radio equipment.

The proposed action would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area.

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 Exclusions referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Gene Lynard for

John W. Barco

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 9, 2010

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Balancing Authority Area Service Agreement for the Hopkins Ridge Generation Project

Budget Number: Work Order 00237023 and Task 03

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	X	proposed action would not entail any ground disturbing activities
2. T & E Species or their habitat(s)	X	
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X	
4. Areas of special designation	X	
5. Health & safety	X	
6. Prime agricultural lands	X	
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	Yes	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X	BPA facilities have existing pollution prevention measures in place

Signed: /s/ Gene Lynard for John W. Barco

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