

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: James Hall - TPC-TPP-4
Project Manager

Proposed Action: Obsidian Finance Group, LLC Generation Interconnection Requests

Budget Information:

Sage Solar	Work Order # 231305, Task 01
Outback Renewables	Work Order # 231307, Task 01
Lost Forest Solar	Work Order # 231312, Task 01

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 “Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.” B4.6: “Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area...”

Location: Lake County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: Obsidian Finance Group, LLC is planning to interconnect three, 4 megawatt solar projects into Midstate Electric Company’s (MEC) distribution system at MEC’s Christmas Valley Substation. The three projects, Sage Solar, Outback Renewables, and Lost Forest Solar are all located in Christmas Valley, Oregon. The closest BPA point of delivery is BPA’s Lapine Substation. The transmission path is from Lapine Substation to MEC’s Fort Rock Substation (47 miles of BPA-owned 115-kV transmission line) and from Fort Rock to Christmas Valley (40 miles of MEC-owned 115-kV transmission line).

At each project, BPA would install a metering and telemetry rack within the existing solar generation collector substation control house. Obsidian would provide a telephone carrier leased line circuit that would transmit BPA required telemetry data from each solar project to BPA’s Fort Rock Series Compensation Station supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA). Subsequently, BPA’s control centers could receive the telemetry BPA requires as the balancing authority from the Fort Rock SCADA.

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/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: June 9, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Clearance Checklist

