

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: February 1, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Russell Paulsrude  
Public Utilities Specialist – TSES-TPP-2

**Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and WM Renewable Energy, LLC (WRE) are entering into a Balancing Authority Area Service Agreement (BAASA). WRE's Riverbend Landfill Generation Project will be dynamically scheduled to Seattle City Light's Balancing Authority (BAA) but interconnected to BPA's BAA. BPA will install metering equipment at BPA's McMinnville 115-kV Substation.

**Budget Information:** Work Order 00004866 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, allocation plans, or acquisition of excess electric power that does not involve: (1) the integration of a new generation resource, (2) physical changes in the transmission system beyond the previously developed facility area, unless the changes are themselves categorically excluded, or (3) changes in the normal operating limits of generation resources.

**B4.6** Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformer, and crossarms.

**Location:** Riverbend Landfill Generation Project, Yamhill, Oregon; BPA's McMinnville 115-kV Substation, Yamhill, Oregon

**Proposed by:** WRE and BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** WRE's Riverbend Landfill Generation Project is being dynamically scheduled to Seattle City Light's BAA. However, the Project will interconnect within BPA's BAA. BPA and WRE are entering into a BAASA. The BAASA covers BPA's operating and reliability requirements, which apply to all generating resources located within BPA's BAA.

WRE's 4.92 MW Riverbend Landfill Generating Facility will interconnect directly to McMinnville Water & Light's 12.47-kV distribution system, which interconnects with BPA's McMinnville 115-kV Substation. In order to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the Project within BPA's BAA, BPA will install metering equipment at BPA's McMinnville

115-kV Substation. The installation of metering equipment would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area and would not entail any ground disturbance.

**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/ John W. Barco

John W. Barco

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

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**Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions**

**Name of Proposed Project:** Balancing Authority Area Service Agreement for the Riverbend Landfill Generation Project

**Budget Number:** Work Order 00004866 and Task 03

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

<b>Environmental Resources</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No with conditions</b>
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's McMinnville 115-kV Substation has existing pollution prevention measures in place.

Signed: /s/ John W. Barco

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