

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: October 7, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum - Seven Mile Project

TO: Erich Orth  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Seven Mile Project

**Budget Information:** Work Order 00211600 Task 03

**Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021:**

B1.11 “Installation of fencing... that will not adversely affect wildlife of surface water flow.”

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

B4.11 “Construction or electric power substations (including switching stations and support facilities) with power delivery at 230-kV or below, or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing substations and support facilities, ...”

**Location:** Linn County, Oregon – T11S, R3W, S34 & T12S, R3W, S2 of the Tangent Quadrangle

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace a line disconnect switch, replace an existing Potential Transformer (PT), and install one new PT at tower 6/8 on the Albany- Lebanon No. 1 115-kV Transmission Line in Linn County, Oregon. In addition, tower 8/6 on the Albany-Lebanon No. 1 115-kV Transmission Line will be moved roughly 40 feet back-on-line and a new line disconnect switch (plus stand) will be installed approximately 12 feet ahead-of-line relative to the present location of tower 8/6.

Under the present configuration, in order for BPA Transmission Line Maintenance to perform maintenance on the BPA line section between Froman and Lebanon, all Cosumer Power, Inc. (CPI) load at Froman must be transferred via CPI distribution lines to be served from CPI Lochner, so that the 115-kV loop can be broken by opening the 115-kV loop-break switch at Lochner or the 115-kV Power Circuit Breaker at Lebanon. This is a time consuming process, impacting the customer, CPI. In addition, increased load growth at both Froman and Lochner is pushing the capacity of the existing distribution lines between Froman and Lochner to be able to handle the transfer. For this reason, it is necessary to add 115-kV loop-break capability to B-1667 between Froman and Lebanon.

The existing auto sectionalizing battery box and control facilities for B-1667 are out in the open, unprotected, difficult to maintain, and have a history of unreliable operation. Two new Voltage Transformers with new steel structures will be installed. B-1667 is an automatic sectionalizing, motor-operated switch. BPA standards do not allow the proposed motor operated disconnect switch with the required attachments to have load break capabilities. Therefore, it is required to have two switches installed instead of one. Because of space constraints at the 6th-mile location, the second switch was relocated to the 8th-mile of the transmission line.

Both B-1667 and B-1666 are only rated for 600-amperes, and the present loading is nearing their maximum capacity. They must be replaced by switches with a higher rating of either 1200-amperes, 1600-amperes, or 2000-amperes. Replacing the existing 600-amp switches with higher rated switches, and installing a candle-stick circuit switcher to be operated both as a loop-break device and to provide the auto-sectionalizing function using upgraded controls and batteries housed in a small meter building, will provide the necessary upgrades to meter capacity requirements, loop-break capability, and reliable auto sectionalizing operation. The existing 115-kV pole-mounted Potential Transformer will be re-used.

**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.

A BPA contract archeologist performed background research for the project vicinity and a field survey on the project area near tower 6/8 of the Albany- Lebanon No. 1 Transmission Line on December 12, 2008. No evidence was found to indicate any effects to cultural resources would occur by this project. A detailed cultural resource report and a summary letter was sent on February 17, 2009 to the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. Concurrence was received regarding this cultural resource report from the SHPO on March 2, 2009. No reply was received from any tribe.

BPA also surveyed the project area near tower 8/6 of the Albany- Lebanon No. 1 Transmission Line on September 20, 2010. Again, no evidence was found to indicate any effects to cultural resources would occur by this project. A detailed cultural resource report and a summary letter was sent on September 23, 2010 to the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. Due to time constraints, the SHPO and tribes were phoned on September 23, 2010 and an expedited review of the cultural resource report was requested. Concurrence regarding this cultural resource report was received from the SHPO on October 7, 2010. No response was received from any tribe.

The project area is absent of water features, unique wildlife habitat, or other environmentally sensitive resources. Because of the previous disturbance and lack of habitat, no ESA species listed or proposed for listing are likely to be present. BPA biologists determined no effect to any listed species within the county (Northern spotted owl, Oregon chub, bull trout, Fender's blue butterfly, Golden paintbrush, Willamette daisy, Bradshaw's desert parsley, Kincaid's lupine, Nelson's checker-mallow). There will be no effect to floodplains or wetlands. It was therefore determined that no adverse environmental effects would occur from construction and operation of the project.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, 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/ Michael B. Henjum

Michael B. Henjum

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: October 7, 2010

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## **Provisions**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

### **Cultural resources:**

1. Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. A qualified archaeologist should immediately be notified and an evaluation made and a treatment plan developed should the find be significant.

### **Vegetation protection and noxious weeds:**

2. Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews will be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated areas and existing roads as much as possible.
3. Designated areas will be used to store equipment and supplies. The contractor will follow applicable state and federal regulations to protect plant communities.
4. After construction, disturbed areas not needed for ongoing access or maintenance will be promptly reseeded with native species where possible.
5. Seed mix for revegetation will contain a mixture of the common native bunchgrasses and dryland species present in the Project area. Native seed is commercially available for this area.
6. Do not spread noxious weed seeds:
  - Certify in writing that all vehicles, equipment, and machinery are free of all weeds including seeds before moving the equipment into the construction area. The COTR will inspect vehicles prior to bringing them on site.
  - When an area contaminated by weeds is encountered on, or off of, the construction site, use caution to prevent the spreading of weeds to other areas. This may include cleaning the equipment with high-pressure water prior to moving from one work site to another, or installing wheel washes. Notify the COTR as to the location of the noxious weeds.
7. Use only weed-free materials, or inert materials for mulching and for erosion control.

### **Erosion control and land use:**

8. Require dust abatement on road and construction site, if necessary.
9. Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized for the protection of water resources.
10. Provide a schedule of construction activities to all landowners/agencies along the corridor that could be affected by construction.
11. Plan and schedule construction activities, when practical, to minimize temporary disturbance, displacement of crops, and interference with farming activities.
12. Keep gates in as found condition (opened or closed). Coordinate construction sequence with landowner so that livestock may be moved if necessary.

**Public Health and Safety:**

13. Limit construction to daytime hours for noise abatement.
14. No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
15. Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. Contaminated media include materials that are potentially harmful to the environment or human health and safety. Work will proceed only after measures approved by the ODEQ are put in place to prevent the spread of contaminated materials and protect the health and safety of workers.
16. Equip vehicles with fire suppression equipment, including a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bladder or water supply.
17. Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Seven Mile

Work Order #: 211600

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

**Note: Supporting documentation is in the Project file.**

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum

Date: /s/ October 7, 2010