

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: January 6, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Claire Bingaman KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Gordon Markley  
Project Manager – TPC-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** Tillamook-Oceanside, 115-kV Substation Interconnection

**Budget Information:** WO# 0004866, Task 03

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 “Additions or modifications to electric power facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility...”

**Location:** Township 1 South, Range 9 West, Section 30, Tillamook County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Tillamook Public Utility District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to install a new 115-kV substation terminal at Bay 6 of BPA’s Tillamook Substation in order to accommodate Tillamook PUD’s request to interconnect its new Oceanside 115-kV transmission line. Relay and metering devices will compose the new terminal at Bay 6 where BPA will connect the last span of Tillamook PUD’s new Oceanside 115-kV line. The entire proposed project is expected to occur within BPA’s existing right-of-way (ROW) and within the existing substation fence. No additional ground disturbance beyond the existing gravel pad will occur.

**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.

The Tillamook Substation was determined to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). BPA determined that none of the proposed work would affect the setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling or association of the Tillamook Substation and on August 31, 2009 sought concurrence from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. No response was received after more than 120 days. It is therefore BPA's determination that the proposed project will have no adverse effect to historic properties.

The proposed project will have no effect on ESA listed species or wetlands.

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/ Claire Bingaman  
Claire Bingaman  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

DATE: January 7, 2010