

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 25, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum (Amended)

TO: Amit Sinha
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

Proposed Action: Westside Substation Additions (Amended)

Budget Information: Work Order 00251471 and Task 03

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

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

Location: Westside Substation, 3.5 miles southwest of Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: An environmental clearance memorandum was completed for the project on May 5, 2008. The original document is amended in order to more fully describe the proposed work and electrical equipment required at the Westside Substation.

Original CX:

“Idaho Falls Power (IFP) plans to make several improvements to their system at BPA’s Westside Substation over the next few years. As a result, BPA needs to grant IFP a new 161-kilovolt (kV) point of delivery at Westside Substation which requires an extension of the main and auxiliary bus, a new 161-kV circuit breaker and disconnect switch, and expansion of the existing control house to accommodate installation of new relay panels. All BPA work will be within the existing substation.”

Amendments:

BPA proposes to install electrical equipment within the existing Westside Substation to support IFP’s continuing improvements to upgrade their system from 46-kV to 161-kV in response to load growth in their service territory. To support IFP’s 161-kV “North Loop” transmission line improvements, BPA needs to install additional 161-kV (or 230-kV) rated substation components including a bus tie circuit breaker, disconnect switches, dead-end structure and transfer bus. The additional equipment will be supported on small pad footings that will require excavation in the existing, rocky electrical yard at Westside Substation.

BPA will also install communications and metering equipment, including a pre-fabricated control rack, within the Westside Substation control house. All BPA work will occur in the

fenced area at the existing substation and will not require new land acquisition or access roads. Work is proposed to begin in summer 2010.

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/ Makary A. Hutson
Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

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