

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Addy-Cusick No. 1 Mile 20 to 22 Road Improvement & Ford Construction

PP&A No.: 3321

Project Manager: Todd Wehner, (CONTR) - TEP-TPP-1

Location: Pend Oreille County, Washington

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

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to perform routine access road maintenance near Bonneville Power Administration's Addy-Cusick No. 1 transmission line right of way from structure 20/3 to structure 22/1. The project is located in Township 33N, Range 42E, Sections 22, 23, 26 & 27. Routine road maintenance is required to insure safe and timely response for maintenance vehicles to access the transmission line right of way to perform inspections, preventative maintenance and emergency response.

Road work involves improving approximately 2.4 miles of existing access roads which are located on and off right of way. Two rock fords will also be constructed to allow for surface run-off from ephemeral channels. Water bars and ditches will also be constructed for overland water flow, and several gates will be installed at critical junctures to control access.

Existing access road improvements will be limited to the existing road prism. Existing road improvements will include but are not limited to:

- Brushing of overgrown vegetation.
- Blading, grading and compacting travel routes.
- Hauling, placing and compacting rock surfacing on travel routes.
- Constructing/reconstructing of water bars, fords, drain dips, culverts and drainage ditches.

General equipment for this project will involve a Cat, grader, roller, water truck, dump truck and excavator.

Erosion control measures for this project will include utilizing erosion control devices (i.e. silt fencing, straw bales, etc.) to minimize sedimentation of any nearby water resources during project activities and reseeding with a U.S. Forest Service approved seed mix to stabilize any disturbed vegetative areas.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which will reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Aaron C. Siemers

Aaron C. Siemers
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 18, 2016

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

The Addy-Cusick No. 1 Mile 20 to 22 Road Improvement & Ford Construction project is located in the following Township, Range, Sections listed below within Pend Oreille County, Washington. The project area is located in sloped, upland areas within the Colville National Forest.

Township		Range		Sections
33	N	42	E	22,23,27 & 26

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>A Cultural Resources Survey of the area of potential effect was initiated and completed in November of 2014 by EthnoTech. The survey found no cultural resources in the project area, and recommended that the proposed project proceed in compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. The Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA that the project would have no effect on historic and cultural resources. Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Kalispel Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation did not respond to BPA’s Letter of Determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project during the stipulated 30-day waiting period. Therefore, according to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800, BPA’s consultation requirements have been fulfilled.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>There will be minimal soil disturbance in the work area. The work involves improving existing roadways. All appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures will be used during construction.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>There are no special-status species present in the project area. Work is to be conducted near an existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW) on existing BPA and Forest Service access roads. Any un-rocked disturbed areas would be seeded with a geographic and climate appropriate seed mix.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation:

See attached Effects Determination memo. No special-status species or designated habitat will be significantly impacted. Work to be performed in existing road prism, so no new habitat typical of the area will be disturbed.

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish** (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



The project is not located in a floodplain. Some work would occur in seasonally dry drainages and ephemeral channels. Typical erosion control BMPs will be implemented and no riparian habitat will be affected.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No new wells or use of ground water is proposed. The maximum depth of disturbance will be about 2 feet. Spill prevention measures will be present.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation:

Existing land use will not be affected as the work will be completed in existing access road prism. There are no specially designated areas present.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

The work will be completed within the existing access road prism and will not impact the visual quality of the surrounding environment. There will be no significant impacts on visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Some temporary dust and vehicle emissions due to construction will occur but there will be no significant impacts.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Temporary noise due to road improvement will occur but there will be no significant impacts.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

The project will not impact human health or safety.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary: Not applicable to the project area or scope of the project.

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary: Not applicable to the scope of the project.

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary: Not applicable to the project area or scope of the project.

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary: Not applicable to the project area or scope of the project. Typical weed control BMPs will be utilized to minimize the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The proposed project is located on Federal Forest Service land and private forested land. BPA will continue ongoing coordination with the landowners.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Aaron Siemers
Aaron C. Siemers, EPR-4
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: April 18, 2016