Department of Veterans Affairs

National Environmental Policy Act - Project Review

Project:

687-13-001 Replace Campus Electrical

Location: Jonathan Wainwright VAMC Campus, Walla Walla, Washington

Date: 20 May 2014

Description of Action:

Project is to replace high voltage 4KV underground loop on central portion of campus along similar pathway and replace exterior street and parking lot lighting along similar pathway

Background:

Existing lighting is multiple vintage, is not energy efficient. Existing high voltage loop has had multiple section failures, is at end of useful life. Planned Housing renovation requires higher electrical demand then existing infrastructure.

Action:

VA intends on replacing existing high voltage loop and campus lighting

Alternatives Considered:

1. No Action – leave existing 4KV loop and existing exterior lighting in place
2. Use existing conduit pathways, de-energize existing loop and multiple bldg. and use those pathways to power existing bldgs.. This alternative will require power outage for considerable portion of campus for months.

NEPA Evaluation:

a. Air Emissions – None – minor dust during excavation
b. Asbestos – None
c. Noise – None
d. Solid Waste - Electrical salvage value for cable and transformers is significant
e. Hazardous Waste – None
f. Biological Resources – None
g. CERCLA/RCRA – None
h. Wetlands – None
i. Surface Water – None
j. Subsurface Water – None
k. Aesthetics - Replacement transformers will be exterior type enclosures
l. Cultural Resources – Majority route selected is in low probability zones. Trench depth will be minimal. Professional third party is tasked to Archeological sample at designated intervals will be accomplished prior to trenching and Excavation monitoring will be accomplished, and artifact discovery, if necessary, is part of tasking.

Therefore, I have determined this project to be CATEX eligible per VA NEPA Interim Guidance, Draft 2010, CATEX Item #1: Repair, replacement and new installation of primary or secondary electrical .. which involve work totally within VA property boundaries. VA Directive 0067 VA National Environmental Policy Act Implementation, June 21 2013, para 4, h, (12) (a). VHA signature authorities.

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