

**MEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FORM**

Project Name: Broadwater Substation Breaker Replacement

Proposed Implementation Date: July 2019 – October 2019

Proponent: DNRC – State Water Projects Bureau

Type and Purpose of Action: The Broadwater Power Project is a 10-MW State-owned hydropower project. It sells generated power to Northwestern Energy. The point of sale is at the State-owned Broadwater substation. Within the Substation are three 30-year old breakers. These breakers are currently slowly leaking SF6 insulating gas and are in need of replacement. The work scope of the project includes replacement of the three 100 kV breakers with DNRC-supplied replacements and includes structural/concrete work, replacing standard CTs with revenue CTs, removing/replacement of the breakers, making connections to the 100kV line and control system, testing, and site reclamation.

Location: T04, R03, Sec 07

County: BROADWATER

**I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION
<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:                      Provide a brief summary of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p>	<p>The existing breakers are currently slowly leaking SF6 insulating gas, which is both toxic and a greenhouse gas, as well as being expensive to refill. Breaker repairs are reportedly nearly as expensive as new breakers and will only last a few years. The existing breakers are obsolete.</p> <p>DNRC is coordinating the replacement with Northwestern Energy and is keeping FERC informed.</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>DNRC is keeping Broadwater County officials informed.</p> <p>NO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVE JURISDICTION. NO PERMITS ARE NEEDED.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: PROCEED WITH PROJECT.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: DO NOT PROCEED WITH PROJECT.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:</p> <p>Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present?</p> <p>Are there unusual geologic features?</p> <p>Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>Work will be completed in the existing Substation compound and will only use developed roads.</p> <p>There are no fragile, compatible or unstable soils present.</p> <p>There are no unusual geologic features.</p> <p>There are no special reclamation considerations.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON GEOLOGY, SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY, OR MOISTURE.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON GEOLOGY, SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY, OR MOISTURE.</p>
<p>5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:</p> <p>Are important surface or groundwater resources present?</p> <p>Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?</p>	<p>There are no important surface or groundwater resources present.</p> <p>There is no potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY, OR DISTRIBUTION.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY, OR DISTRIBUTION.</p>

<p>6. AIR QUALITY:</p> <p>Will pollutants or particulate be produced?</p> <p>Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)?</p>	<p>Only minor amounts of dust and particulate will be produced as part of normal construction activities.</p> <p>Completion of this project will eliminate SF6 from being introduced into the atmosphere.</p> <p>The project is not influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed).</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE ARE MINIMAL SHORT-TERM EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY AND POSITIVE LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE ARE CONTINUING NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</p> <p>Will vegetative communities be permanently altered?</p>	<p>Work will be completed in the existing Substation compound and will only use developed roads.</p> <p>No vegetative communities will be permanently altered.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY, OR QUALITY.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY, OR QUALITY.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</p> <p>Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>There is no substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, OR AQUATIC LIFE OR HABITATS.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE ARE NO EFFECTS ON TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, OR AQUATIC LIFE OR HABITATS.</p>

<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</p> <p>Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present?</p> <p>Any wetlands?</p> <p>Any sensitive species or Species of Special Concern?</p>	<p>There are no federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present.</p> <p>There are no wetlands present.</p> <p>There are no sensitive species or Species of Special Concern present.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL/ ARCHAEOLOGICAL :</p> <p>Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Work will be completed in the existing Substation compound and will only use developed roads.</p> <p>There are no historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS:</p> <p>Is the project on a prominent topographic feature?</p> <p>Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas?</p> <p>Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>The project will take place at the Broadwater Substation along the Toston Dam Road, about a mile off of Highway 287. It is easily seen from Toston Dam Road, but minimally visible from the Highway. It will be visible from residences in the area, but is not close enough to directly affect them.</p> <p>The project is not on a prominent topographic feature.</p> <p>The project will be somewhat visible from populated or scenic areas.</p> <p>The project will not result in excessive noise or light.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS MINIMAL, TEMPORARY EFFECT ON AESTHETICS.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON AESTHETICS.</p>

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Will the project use resources that are limited in the area?

Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?

Should the breakers fail before they can be replaced, the environmentally friendly hydropower will no longer be able to be produced and will need to be replaced by other power sources.

The project will not use resources that are limited in the area.

There are no other activities nearby that will affect the project.

Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY.

No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

Are there other studies, plans or projects on this site?

There are no other studies, plans or projects on this site.

Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA.

No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?

There is the normal risk to the construction workers that is associated with any construction project.

There is no added risk to health and safety to persons not directly associated with the project.

Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY.

No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Will the project add to or alter these activities?

Should the existing breakers fail, power production in the area may be limited, affecting local businesses. Some power distribution limitations may be felt during project construction.

The project will not otherwise add to or alter industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities or production.

Action Alternative: THERE ARE MINIMAL, TEMPORARY EFFECTS ON INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES OR PRODUCTION.

No Action Alternative: THERE MAY BE EFFECTS ON INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, OR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES OR PRODUCTION.

<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</p> <p>Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>The project will create a few temporary construction jobs.</p> <p>The project will not create, move or eliminate permanent jobs.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON QUANTITY OR DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON QUANTITY OR DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:</p> <p>Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>The State of Montana is not a tax-paying entity. As such, the project will not create or eliminate tax revenue.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE OR TAX REVENUES.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE OR TAX REVENUES.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:</p> <p>Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads?</p> <p>Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>	<p>There will be short term increase in traffic along Highway 287 and Toston Dam Road. There will not be substantial traffic added to existing roads as a result of this project.</p> <p>Other services (e.g. fire protection, police, schools, etc.) will not be needed as a result of this project.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS MINIMAL, TEMPORARY EFFECT ON DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES.</p>

**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?

There are no State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect in the vicinity of the project.

Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS.

No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS.

**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

Is wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through the project location?

Is there recreational potential within the project location?

There are no wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through the project location.

There is no recreational potential within the project location.

Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON ACCESS TO OR QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.

No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON ACCESS TO OR QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.

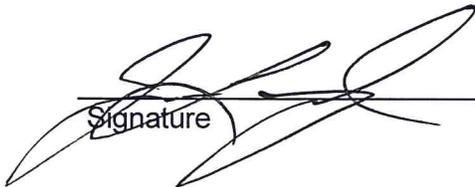
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</p> <p>Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>There will be a need for short term housing for construction workers, typically in motels.</p> <p>There will be no added population and requirements for additional permanent housing as a result of the project.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</p> <p>Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>There will be no disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities as a result of this project.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:</p> <p>Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>There will not be a shift in some unique quality of the area as a result of this project.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>The project will not affect any other social or economic circumstances.</p> <p>Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: THERE IS NO EFFECT ON OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.</p>

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action alternative.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts anticipated.
27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Prepared By: DAVID LOFFTUS HYDROPOWER SUPERVISOR Date: 6/13/19  
Name Title

EA Approved By: JAN LANGEL DNRC WATER RESOURCE ADMINISTRATOR  
Name Title

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/17/19

Attachments: No attachments are included.

Additional Information:

This EA will be published for 30 days on the DNRC website at:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/public-interest/environmental-docs>

Questions and comments should be directed to:

*David Lofftus*  
*Hydropower Supervisor*  
Montana DNRC  
Water Resources Division  
State Water Projects Bureau  
1424 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue; P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1602  
(406) 444-6659  
dlofftus@mt.gov