

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 9, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-ALVEY

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad Hamel
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: 2013 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 2663

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Location: Various transmission lines located in Douglas, Linn, and Lane counties, Oregon. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the subject transmission lines. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading, and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which will help 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: 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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 9, 2013

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State
Albany-Lebanon #1	2\3, 2\4	11S	4W	13	Linn, OR
	3\7, 3\8	11S	3W	19	Linn, OR
	10\5	12S	2W	7	Linn, OR
Eugene-Alderwood #1	10\1	16S	4W	8	Lane, OR
	10\12, 10\13	16S	4W	7	Lane, OR
	11\17, 11\18, 12\2, 12\3	16S	5W	12	Lane, OR
	12\8, 12\9, 13\3	16S	5W	11	Lane, OR
	13\7 – 13\10, 13\15	16S	5W	10	Lane, OR
Blue River Tap	1\3	16S	4E	27	Lane, OR
Eugene-Alvey #2	6\7	18S	4W	14	Lane, OR
	8\1	18S	4W	24	Lane, OR
	13\1	18S	3W	23	Lane, OR
Hawkins-Alvey #1	6\1	18S	3W	21	Lane, OR
Lane-Wendson #1	3\2	18S	5W	2	Lane, OR
	6\3	18S	5W	5	Lane, OR
	13\6	18S	6W	7	Lane, OR
	14\6	18S	7W	12	Lane, OR
Latham Tap	1\9, 1\12, 1\15, 1\16	21S	3W	7	Lane, OR
	2\6, 2\7, 2\9-2\11, 2\13	21S	3W	8	Lane, OR
Lookout Point-Alvey #1	8\8, 8\9, 9\6	18S	2W	35	Lane, OR
Lookout Point-Alvey #2	7\4	19S	2W	1	Lane, OR
	8\8	18S	2W	35	Lane, OR
	10\4	18S	2W	27	Lane, OR
Martin Creek-Drain #1	4\9	21S	4W	15	Douglas, OR
	4\11	21S	4W	16	Douglas, OR
	6\1	21S	4W	21	Douglas, OR

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2013 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 318843 (Albany-Lebanon #1), 318844 (Eugene-Alderwood #1), 318853 (Blue River Tap), 318853 (Eugene-Alvey #2), 318855 (Hawkins-Alvey #1), 318856 (Lane-Wendson #1), 320915 (Latham Tap), 318870 & 318874 (Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & #2), 318875 (Martin Creek-Drain #1)

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities. Minor rock placements at selected sites will occur to facilitate access to uneven surfaces. ▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism. ▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structure 13/6 on the Lane-Wendson #1 is within identified Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management—Eugene District. Work at this location is limited to replacement in-kind of existing wood pole structures. No landing, road work, or vegetation management is needed in this location. Work schedule is from October 1st through October 3rd, outside of breeding season restrictions (i.e. disruption distance requirements) for this species and associated critical habitat designation. Due to these factors, this project will have a “No Effect” on the Northern spotted owl and critical habitat. ▪ Structure 1\3 on the Blue River Tap is within ½ mile of the McKenzie River, which contains Bull trout and critical habitat. Existing road resurfacing (blading and rock) will be performed at this location. Erosion control measures will be utilized during maintenance (i.e. silt fence, reseeding if necessary); therefore, this project will have “No Effect” on Bull trout or critical habitat. <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.</p>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat.</p>		
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Prime or unique farmlands

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7. Special sources of water

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8. Other (describe)

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List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: May 4, 2013

Benjamin Tilley, KEP-ALVEY