

# memorandum

DATE: April 28, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacey Hensley  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

**Proposed Action:** 2014 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

**PP&A Project No.:** 2884

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

**Location:** Various transmission lines located in Lane, Linn, and Douglas 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. The work area will not extend beyond the original construction footprint.

Routine access road maintenance will be necessary in several locations to preserve existing infrastructure, maintain roadway safety, and manage storm water run-off. Activities will include light blading of existing road surface and placement of road rock within the existing established road prism. Cross drains, ditches, and culverts will be inspected and cleaned if necessary. Rock will be added around several structures to improve access and crew safety.

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/ Philip W. Smith, for:

Benjamin J. Tilley  
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 28, 2014

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

### Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Albany-Lebanon #1	1/13, 1/18, 2/2, 2/6	11S	4W	13	Linn, OR	Urban
	3/2	11S	4W	19	Linn, OR	Urban
	14/3	12S	2W	22	Linn, OR	Agriculture
Alvey-Martin Creek #1	21/3, 21/8-9, 22/3, 22/5	21S	3W	16, 17	Lane, OR	Rural residential
Eugene-Lane /Bertlesen/Alvey #1	1/7, 1/8	17S	4W	22	Lane, OR	Urban
Eugene-Alvey #2	3/3	17S	4W	27	Lane, OR	Urban
	5/4 – 5/8, 6/4	18S	4W	10	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
	7/4, 7/8	18S	4W	14	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
	8/2, 8/3, 8/7	18S	4W	13	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
	13/3	18S	3W	23	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
Hawkins-Alvey #2	2/1, 2/8	18S	4W	14	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
	3/9, 4/1	18S	4W	24	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
Willow Creek-Hawkins #1	2/8	18S	4W	10	Lane, OR	Urban, city park
Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & #2	10/3, 10/5- 11/1	18S	2W	27	Lane, OR	Rural residential
	12/6, 13/1	18S	2W	20	Lane, OR	County park
	14/2	18S	2W	18	Lane, OR	County park
Rainbow Valley Tap	3/2, 3/6, 3/9 – 3/12	18S	5W	13	Lane, OR	Rural residential
Martin Creek-Drain#1	5/4, 6/4	21S	4W	20, 21	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
	8/1, 8/5	21S	4W	31	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
	10/1	21S	5W	35	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry

<b>ROW Corridor</b>	<b>Corridor Location</b>	<b>Description of Maintenance</b>	<b>Land Use</b>
Alvey-Martin Creek #1	21/3, 21/8-9, 22/3, 22/5	Improve 2500' of existing road, rock 4 landings	Rural residential
Eugene-Alvey #2	5/4 – 6/4, 7/4-8/7	Rock 12,200' of existing on-ROW roads, rock 9 landings	Urban, city park
Rainbow Valley Tap	3/2-3/12	Rock 1500' of existing road, rock 4 landings	Rural residential
Martin Creek-Drain #1	5/4-6/4, 8/1-10/1	Rock 9300' of existing road, rock 5 landings	Commercial forestry

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** 2014 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

**Work Order #:** 342808 (Albany-Lebanon #1), 343034 (Alvey-Martin Creek #1), 343037 (Eugene-Alvey #2), 343039 (Eugene-Bertlesen #1), 343059 (Eugene-Lane #1), 343060 (Hawkins-Alvey #1), 343188 & 343189 (Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & #2), 343192 (Rainbow Valley Tap), 343193 (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"> <li>▪ Scope consists of routine maintenance existing road surfaces and landing improvements as well as replacing all new poles in existing holes within the original construction footprint. Blading and rocking will only occur within the existing established road prism. Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site.</li> <li>▪ 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. Work will not commence until the SHPO has cleared the area.</li> <li>▪ A monitor, preferably an archaeologist, should be on site during construction.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ T&amp;E surveys have been completed (2009 – 2011) for listed species and potential habitats for Willamette Valley Prairie species. No listed species were identified in the project locations during the surveys.</li> <li>▪ Structures 8/2 &amp; 8/3 on the Eugene-Alvey #2 line are adjacent to potential habitat for the Kincaid's lupine. No work is planned outside the ROW in this location. Surveys were performed in this area in 2010 and 2011 and no listed species were identified within the ROW.</li> </ul>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements.		
4. Areas of special designation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City of Eugene Parks—signage and monitors will be used to maintain public safety.</li> <li>▪ Howard Buford Recreation Area (county park)—work scheduled to avoid times of high public use. Signs and monitors will be utilized if necessary.</li> </ul>		
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley  
Benjamin Tilley, KEP-ALVEY

Date: April 15, 2014