

memorandum

DATE: April 9, 2015

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Gary Beck
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: 2015 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

PP&A Project No.: 3166

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/ Phil Smith for
Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Stacy L. Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 9, 2015

Attachments:
Project Location
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Project Location

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Albany-Lebanon #1	2/8, 2/9	11S	4W	13	Linn, OR	Urban
	16/9	12S	2W	25	Linn, OR	Rural Residential
Alvey-Martin Creek #1	23/5	21S	3W	18	Lane, OR	Rural residential
Bertelsen-Willow Creek #1	2/2	17S	4W	34	Lane, OR	Urban
Dexter Tap	1/8, 1/9	19S	1W	10	Lane, OR	Commercial Forestry
Eugene-Alvey #2	1/1, 1/3, 1/4, 1/10, 2/2	17S	4W	22, 23	Lane, OR	Urban
	13/2	18S	3W	23	Lane, OR	Commercial Forestry
Eugene-Bertelsen #1	1/1, 1/3, 1/4, 1/8, 1/11, 2/1	17S	4W	22, 23	Lane, OR	Urban
	2/5, 2/7	17S	4W	27	Lane, OR	Urban
Foster Tap	4/3	13S	1E	22	Linn, OR	Commercial Forestry
Lane-Wendson #1	11/8	18S	6W	8	Lane, OR	Commercial Forestry
	16/6	18S	7W	3	Lane, OR	BLM land
	17/3	18S	7W	4	Lane, OR	Commercial Forestry
	25/1, 25/2	18S	8W	6, 7	Lane, OR	Commercial Forestry
	32/7	18S	10W	1	Lane, OR	Commercial Forestry
Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & #2	5/3	19S	1W	5	Lane, OR	Rural residential
	8/10	18S	2W	35	Lane, OR	Rural residential
	10/4	18S	2W	27	Lane, OR	Rural residential
	13/5, 13/6	18S	2W	20	Lane, OR	County park
Rainbow Valley Tap	2/10, 3/1, 3/2	18S	5W	11	Lane, OR	Rural residential

Transmission Line	Structure(s)	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Land Use
Martin Creek- Drain#1	3/1	21S	4W	14	Lane, OR	Commercial forestry
	4/10	21S	4W	16	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
	6/6, 7/2, 7/7	21S	4W	20, 29, 30	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
	9/3	21S	5W	36	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
	13/6, 13/7	22S	5W	16	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry
	14/4	22S	5W	17	Douglas, OR	Commercial forestry

ROW Corridor	Corridor Location	Description of Maintenance	Land Use
Alvey-Martin Creek #1	23/5	Improve 300' of existing road, rock 2 landings	Commercial Forestry
Lookout Point-Alvey 1 & 2	13/5, 13/6	Improve 2000' of road, rock 2 landings	County park
Dexter Tap	1/8, 1/9	Rock 2 landings	Commercial Forestry
Martin Creek- Drain #1	13/6	Rock 2200' of existing road, rock 3 landings	Commercial forestry

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: 2015 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

Work Order #: 370985 (Albany-Lebanon #1), 370988 (Alvey-Martin Creek #1), 370980 (Bertelsen-Willow Creek #1), 370991 (Dexter Tap)m 371074 (Eugene-Alvey #2),370992 (Eugene-Bertlesen #1), 370993 (Foster Tap), 371125 (Lane-Wendson #1), 370994 & 370995 (Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & #2), 370997 (Rainbow Valley Tap), 370996 (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.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scope consists of routine maintenance existing road surfaces and landing improvements as well as all new poles being placed 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. ▪ 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. 		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T&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. • Structure 2\2 on the Bertelsen-Willow Creek #1 line is adjacent to critical habitat for the Willamette daisy. 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 project area. 		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • City of Eugene Parks—signage and monitors will be used to maintain public safety. • Howard Buford Recreation Area (county park)—work scheduled to avoid times of high public use. Signs and monitors will be utilized if necessary. 		
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)



List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Effects Determination

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith for

Ben Tilley, KEP-ALVEY

Date: April 9, 2015