

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Albany-Eugene No. 1 Nesting Platform Relocation near Structure 27/7

**PP&A Project No.:** 3208

**Project Manager:** Nicholas Wenzl

**Location:** Located in Lane County, Oregon; Alvey District

Transmission Line/ROW	Structure #	Township	Range	Section	County, State	Ownership
Albany-Eugene No. 1	Near 27/7	15S	4W	21	Linn, OR	Private

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to relocate an avian nesting platform and pole that is located between conductor phases on the Albany-Eugene No. 1 transmission line due to line safety and maintenance concerns.

Work would include removing the current wood pole, platform, and nesting materials and installing a new 80 foot tall steel pole approximately 60 feet ahead-on-line and approximately 12 feet to the NW (parallel with Structure 27/7 in the existing ROW). The new platform site would be further back from the Willamette River but 20 feet higher than the existing pole. The current platform and nesting materials would be reused and placed on the new pole. General equipment used for this type of project would include a utility boom truck with an auger and haul vehicle for soil. An area up to 50 feet by 50 feet may be temporarily disturbed at each pole site.

The proposed action would mitigate the threat to nesting birds (Osprey) and safe operation of the line presented by the location of the existing nesting platform. Work within the conductors would take place under an outage and all work would be done in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code and BPA standards.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);

- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Kevin George

Kevin George

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 30, 2015

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

Effects Determination for T&E Species

## Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Albany-Eugene No. 1 Nesting Platform Relocation near Structure 27/7

---

### Project Site Description

The project work would take place in the existing BPA rights-of-way corridor. The project area is located within an actively farmed agricultural field adjacent to the Willamette River between Junction City and Harrisburg, Oregon.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All project areas were culturally surveyed and consulted on with SHPO and interested Tribes for the 2013 Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild project and concluded that there would be no adverse affect to archaeological resources.</p> <p>Inadvertent discovery form should be provided and explained to the road contractor. The contractor is to limit maintenance activities and equipment to the existing roadway, pullouts, and landings. 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.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed work takes place within the Newberg soil series which consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in loamy and sandy alluvium from sedimentary and basic igneous rocks. Fine sandy loams make up this series and exhibit similar drainage, runoff, and permeability characteristics throughout the series column to the depth which the new pole hole would be augered to, and the depth of the existing pole hole which would be back filled with the augered soils.</p> <p>No additional material or equipment staging areas are needed for this project.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This project requires no tree or vegetation clearing. The project area was surveyed for listed and sensitive plant species prior to the Albany-Eugene Transmission Line Rebuild project. It was determined that there is no suitable habitat or listed species within the proposed Project area.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Upon review, for wildlife species it was determined that there is either no suitable habitat within the project area, or by implementing timing restrictions, there will be no impacts to listed wildlife species or their</p>		

habitats. Timing restrictions to be observed include not beginning this project before August 15. Should the platform still be occupied at this time, work must be delayed until the nest is vacated. Additionally a BPA biologist may be sent to review Project areas prior to the start of the work to assure no avian species are present.

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
(including federal/state special-status  
species and ESUs)

☐☒

Explanation: This project requires no in-water work, no tree or vegetation removal, nor any new roads or landings. Where determined to be necessary, erosion control BMPs will be used. Provide adequately stocked oil spill response kits in all construction equipment.

So that there will be no net decrease in flood plain capacity, augured soils from the new pole site will be used to backfill the pole hole at the prior pole location. In the event that excess materials are generated, excess materials are to be collected, deposited, and stabilized in upland areas approved by PP&A. As applicable, schedule work to occur when dry.

6. **Wetlands**

☐☒

Explanation: No wetlands will be impacted by this project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

☒☐

Explanation: There would be no additional risk of vertical migration to groundwater or aquifers than currently exists. Augured soils have the same consistency of the soils at the pole removal site. Additionally, the new pole will be steel and not treated wood removing the threat of contamination from wood treatment compounds. Spill kits will be on-site located in construction equipment. No groundwater withdrawals will be necessary for this project.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

☐☒

Explanation: Equipment and materials are to be restricted to the landowner approved routes of travel, existing roads, and pole sites.

All construction equipment will be thoroughly cleaned prior to coming onto project sites to remove weed seeds, vegetative matter, soils, oil and greases.

Assure all equipment left in the Project area overnight have locking gas caps.

Relieve compaction in agricultural fields at the completion of the Project or restore per landowner requirements.

9. **Visual Quality**

☒☐

Explanation: The Project will not significantly alter or effect visual quality since the replacement platform is similar in appearance to the existing one to be removed.

10. **Air Quality**

☐☒

Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar during project implementation is expected to be temporary and insignificant. Utilize dust prevention measures to limit dust impacting adjacent businesses.

11. **Noise**

☐☒

Explanation: Construction noise will be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

☐☒

Explanation: A Site Specific Safety Plan will be prepared for this project.

### **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- ☒ Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- ☒ Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- ☒ Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- ☒ 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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

---

### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Regional transmission line and BPA Land personnel met with the landowner 06/18/16 and coordinated all aspects of projects including timing, and restoration needs.

---

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Kevin George  
Kevin George

Date: June 30, 2015