

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Eugene District, Alvey TLM, 2017 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project No.: 3724

Project Manager: James Semrau - TEP-TPP-1

Location: Douglas, Lane, and Linn counties, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to replace a total of 35 deteriorating wood pole structures and associated hardware and guy wires along six separate transmission line corridors within the Alvey Transmission Line Maintenance District in Douglas, Lane, and Linn counties, Oregon. For all structures, the work will include removing the existing wood pole structures (including guy wires if present) and replacing them with in-kind structures in the same location.

Access road and landing surface improvements may need to be made to get equipment to the work site. Dependent on the structure location and access road conditions, the project may include minor blading and rocking to provide a stable work location near the structures and potentially in-kind replacements or general maintenance of existing drainage features.

The following table contains the structure names and locations for this project.

Transmission Line	County	Township/Range/Section	Struture(s)	Land Use
Albany-Lebanon #1	Linn	T11S, R4W, S13	1/1	Residential
		T11S, R3W, S19, 20	3/5, 4/1	Rural Residential
		T12S, R3W, S1	9/7	Rural Residential
		T12S, R2W, S 25, 26	15/8, 17/6	Agriculture
Alvey-Martin Creek #1	Lane	T21S, R3W, S16	21/4	Residential

Cougar-Thurston #1	Lane	T17S, R3E, S 3 T16S, R3E, S 32, 33 T17S, R2E, S 5, 6 T17S, R1E, S 10	13/2 20/4, 21/2, 22/1 22/2, 22/6, 22/7, 23/4 26/4, 26/7, 26/8	Commercial Forestry Commercial Forestry Commercial Forestry Commercial Forestry
Eugene-Alvey #2	Lane	T18S, R4W, S 14, 24 T18S, R3W, S 19, 20, 22, 24	7/3, 7/4, 7/8, 8/3, 8/7 9/7, 9/8, 10/1, 10/2, 12/6, 12/7, 12/8	Rural Residential Rural Residential
Hawkins-Alvey #1	Lane	T18S, R3W, S 20-23	5/6, 6/8, 7/7, 8/1	Rural Residential
Martin Creek-Drain #1	Douglas	T21S, R4W, S 14	3/2	Commercial Forestry

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/ Phil Smith for
Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 16, 2017

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

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: Eugene District, Alvey TLM, 2017 Priority Wood Pole Replacements

Project Site Description

The project areas are rural residential, agricultural, and commercial forestry land use areas. The sites are within existing transmission line rights-of-way and have been previously disturbed by routine vegetation and construction maintenance.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey and Section 106 consultation were completed for the project APes. Oregon SHPO was sent results of the surveys and reports on April 10, 2017. Response from Oregon SHPO occurred on May 10, 2017, with request for clarification of several items. A response was sent to Oregon SHPO on May 12, 2017, and no response has been submitted back to BPA. A precontact archaeological site was discovered adjacent to the work area at structure 17/6 on the Albany-Lebanon #1 transmission line. An archaeological monitor will be present during construction activities at this location and follow-up will occur with Oregon SHPO and affected tribes in the event any historic and/or archaeological materials are discovered. Based on communications with Oregon SHPO and affected tribes, a determination of 'no adverse effect to historic properties' has been made.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is in a previously disturbed right-of-way within the existing transmission line corridor, surrounded by commercial forestry and other agricultural lands. Sites would be stabilized upon completion of project activities. Where appropriate, storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect surrounding areas from erosion potential. No prime or unique farmlands will be negatively affected by project activities.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No identified listed species (Federal and state) are present at or adjacent to the project sites. Work would occur in areas maintained as open transmission line corridor; no vegetation is planned for removal.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federally-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat present at or adjacent to the project area.</p>		

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



Explanation: Several of the structure sites are located adjacent to rivers and creeks. Appropriate storm water BMPs would be used during the project to protect surrounding areas from erosion potential. No in-water work is anticipated or authorized for any of the project sites. No FEMA-mapped floodplains are identified within project work locations.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are identified within or adjacent to any of the project work sites. BMPs employed in #5 above would minimize or prevent any potential runoff that could compromise water quality.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater. Disturbance from the project work would be physical in nature with no potential contaminants other than vehicular fluids that could possibly leak on-site. Spill kits will be in every vehicle and piece of work equipment present at all work locations.

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



Explanation: The project will not alter the appearance or function of lands at the work sites and will maintain existing access roads for private, agricultural property owners and BPA. The project does not include any specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Proposed actions at existing facilities and work sites would not alter or affect visual quality. All pole replacements would be in-kind and utilize similar structure designs.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Work activities for this project are maintenance-level in nature and should be completed in a short-time period with minimal crews and machinery, resulting in exhaust fumes and potentially dust during dry periods. Dust control measures will be used if necessary.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise will occur from work activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions exist at identified work sites. A site-specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis will be developed and approved by BPA prior to work commencing. Daily job briefings will occur prior to work initiation each day to assure an overview of all potential hazards involved for that work day.

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: Notifications via mailed letters will be sent to all current landowners approximately 2-6 weeks prior to project initiation. The letter will provide contact information for BPA to allow feedback from landowners concerning the proposed work activities.

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

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith for _____
Benjamin J. Tilley, EP-Alvey

Date: June 16, 2017