

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Alvey TLM District FY18 Wood Pole Replacements

PP&A No.: 4,195

Project Manager: Sarah Hall – TEPL-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: BPA proposes to perform in-kind replacement of wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along several transmission lines (see table with locations below). Replacement poles would be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-bored to assure proper depth placement. Minor maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings would be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. No construction activities would occur in any water body including streams, ponds, or wetlands. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of waterbars and drain dips.

The project would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work would be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Refer to the table below for wood pole replacement locations.

Transmission Line	Structures	TRS	County
Albany-Lebanon No. 1	8/4 14/6 16/7	T12S R3W SEC2 T12S R2W SEC22 T12S R2W SEC25	Linn
Dorena Tap to Alvey - Martin Creek No. 1	1/1 1/5 5/5	T21S R3W DC44 T21S R3W SEC3 T21S R2W DC39	Lane
Eugene-Alvey No. 2	8/4 10/5	T18S R4W SEC24 T18S R3W DC53	Lane
Eugene-Bertelsen No. 1	2/8	T17S R4W SEC27	Lane
Hawkins-Alvey No. 1	2/6 3/2 5/4 8/7	T18S R4W SEC14 T18S R4W SEC24 T18S R3W DC53 T18S R3w SEC14	Lane

Transmission Line	Structures	TRS	County
Hills Creek-Lookout Point No. 1	5/2 5/7 10/7 10/9 19/1 19/5 20/9 22/6 26/6	T21S R3E SEC17 T20S R2E SEC36 T20S R2E SEC35 T20S R1E SEC1 T20S R1E SEC2 T19S R1E SEC35 T19S R1E SEC28 T19S R1W SEC13	Lane
Lookout Point-Alvey No. 1	2/6 4/2 14/5 15/8 16/3 16/8	T19S R1W SEC13 T19S R1W SEC4 T18S R3W SEC13 T18S R3W DC40 T18S R3W SEC14	Lane
Lookout Point-Alvey No. 2	8/2 8/7 9/3 11/9 15/11 16/3	T18S R2W DC67 T18S R2W DC60 T18S R2W DC76 T18S R3W DC40 T18S R3W SEC14	Lane
Martin Creek-Drain No. 1	3/5 5/2	T21S R4W SEC15 T21S R4W SEC16	Douglas

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/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 29, 2019

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: Alvey TLM District FY18 Wood Pole Replacements

Project Site Description

The project area consists of the proposed structure replacement locations, transmission line right of ways, and access road easements along the following wood pole transmission lines located in Lane, Linn, and Douglas counties, Oregon:

- Albany – Lebanon No.1
- Dorena Tap to Alvey – Martin Creek No. 1
- Eugene – Alvey No. 2
- Eugene – Bertelsen No. 1
- Hawkins – Alvey No. 1
- Hills Creek – Lookout Point No. 1
- Lookout Point – Alvey No. 1
- Lookout Point – Alvey No. 2
- Martin Creek – Drain No. 1

The above transmission lines are situated on private small woodlots, cultivated lands, urban areas, Willamette National Forest, and municipal public lands. Primary land uses include residential, timber production, and farming. All proposed project locations are located greater than 300 feet from fish bearing streams and rivers. A freshwater emergent wetland is located approximately 40 feet south of the structure along Eugene – Bertelsen No. 1.

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**



Explanation: A cultural resources survey was performed at all wood pole replacement locations, associated landings, and proposed road improvement locations. One cultural resources was identified during the survey, but was determined not eligible. SHPO concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to historic properties determination on September 3, 2019.

In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; DAHP; and the appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

2. **Geology and Soils**



Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacements, landing improvements, and access road maintenance activities. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

3. **Plants** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: Kincaid's lupin, a federally listed plant species, has been identified in the proposed Eugene – Alvey No.2 project area. For all other project sites, no Federal/state special-status plants are present. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way and would not substantially alter existing plant communities.

Note:

- At the Eugene – Alvey No. 2 project site, Kincaid's lupine would be identified by a qualified biologist and fenced to protect the plants during the proposed work.
- Vegetation would be crushed and left in place, rather than bladed, where possible.
- Project activities would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way

4. **Wildlife** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: No Federal/state special-status species present. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would not be affected.

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



Explanation: Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed and resident fish species may inhabit waterbodies that are within ½-mile of the various transmission lines. By implementing the following mitigation measures while working near water bodies, there would be no effect on water bodies, floodplains, and fish.

Note:

- Trees and brush in riparian zones would be selectively cut to include only those that are in violation of current BPA ground to conductor clearance electrical safety standards.
- No ground-disturbing vegetation management methods would be implemented near water resources, thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near water bodies.
- Erosion control devices would be utilized to reduce sedimentation of any nearby water resources.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: By implementing the following mitigation measures while working near or in wetlands, there would be no effect on wetlands.

Note:

- At locations adjacent to wetlands, erosion control devices would be utilized to prevent sedimentation of nearby wetlands.
- At locations within mapped wetlands, work would be performed during the dry season or wetland matting would be utilized to minimize disturbance.
- Landing work is not allowed at structures located in wetlands unless authorized by applicable Federal/State permits.
- Any excess soil generated from pole replacements would be disposed of in an upland area away from the wetland.
- Weed-free seed and straw would be used to mitigate any soil disturbed areas.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur. No specially-designated areas are located in the project area.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-ways. Replacement of wood poles and associated components would be in kind and replaced in the same location.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be a small amount of dust and vehicle emissions from construction activity.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

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 Realty personnel would perform landowner notifications within 30-days prior to project initiation and any concerns regarding proposed transmission line maintenance activities would be addressed.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti Date: August 29, 2019
Michelle Colletti – EPR-4
Physical Scientist - Environmental