

**Categorical Exclusion Determination**  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Salem-Albany No. 2 Structure 18/4 Wood Pole Replacement

**PP&A No.:** 4457

**Project Manager:** Lisa Casey – TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** Polk County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to perform in-kind replacement of one wood pole (pole A) of structure 18/4 on the Salem-Albany No. 2 115-kilovolt transmission line. The replacement pole would be placed in or adjacent to the existing hole following the removal of the current pole. Prior to pole replacement, the hole would be re-augered to assure proper depth placement.

**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, Jul. 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/ Emma Reinemann

Emma Reinemann  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey C. Grange, June 23, 2020  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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:** Salem-Albany No. 2 Structure 18/4 Wood Pole Replacement

## **Project Site Description**

Structure 18/4 of the Salem-Albany No. 2 transmission line is located in a flat, privately-owned agriculture field just outside the town of Suver, Oregon. The Luckiamute River is approximately ½ mile to the northeast of the project location.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area was surveyed in 2014. There are no historic properties recorded in the area. This project has no potential to affect historic properties.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during wood pole replacement. Standard erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary to prevent erosion.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is located within an active agricultural field and the work would not disturb native vegetation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no recent documented sightings of ESA-listed species within the project area. The project would result in additional noise generation during construction; however, the project area is located in a farmed area that is routinely maintained with agricultural equipment, so wildlife in the area would be accustomed to this noise level. The proposed activities would therefore have no effect on wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is not located in a floodplain. The nearest water body to the project area is the Luckiamute River, which is located approximately ½ mile away. Because

project activities and the associated impact would be localized, the proposed action would not affect water bodies, floodplains, or fish. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized to ensure sediment does not migrate off site

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands present in the vicinity of the project area.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater is proposed. Excavation would not extend to a depth that would intersect ground water.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No specially-designated areas were identified within the project area. Land use would not change as a result of project activities.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would be performed within the existing transmission line right-of-way. Replacement of wood pole would be in kind and in the same location. The visual quality of the line would not change as a result of project activities.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a small, temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines 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: N/A

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

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

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

Description: The landowner of the proposed project area has been contacted. The crops in the field will be harvested in early to mid-August, prior to construction.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann - EPR-4 June 23, 2020  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)