

Categorical Exclusion Determination
Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY 19 Alvey Transmission Line Maintenance (TLM) District Priority Poles & Access Road Maintenance Project

PP&A No.: 4263

Project Manager: Walter Ludt – TEPL-TPP-1

Location: 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 (BPA) proposes to perform in-kind replacement of wood pole structures and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) as well as access road maintenance along several transmission lines in the Alvey TLM District. The proposed action would reduce the risk of outages and safety concerns caused by downed power lines. Additionally, the proposed project would allow safe and timely access to the transmission lines which would reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region.

Replacement poles would be placed in existing holes following removal of current pole structures, and may be re-augured to assure proper depth placement. Refer to Table 1 for wood pole replacement locations.

Maintenance along existing access road prisms and landings would be performed where necessary to facilitate safe access. Access road maintenance may include blading, shaping, rocking, and construction of water bars and drain dips. Two new landings would be constructed on Lookout Point - Alvey Numbers 1 & 2 at structures 12/8 and 12/8 which are adjacent to each other. Both landings would be approximately 100 ft. by 100 ft.

The proposed pole replacement and access road work would be done using conventional utility line and construction equipment and techniques.

Table 1: Alvey TLM District Priority Pole Locations

Transmission Line	Structure	TRS	County
Albany-Lebanon No 1	13/1	OR T12S R2W SEC16	Linn
Alvey-Martin Creek No 1	22/7	OR T21S R3W SEC18	Lane
	23/1		
Dorena Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No 1	2/2	OR T21S R3W SEC3	Lane
Lookout Point-Alvey No 1	6/6	OR T19S R1W SEC6	Lane
	9/4	OR T18S R2W DC59	
	11/2	OR T18S R2W DC76	
	14/7	OR T18S R3W SEC13	
Lookout Point-Alvey No 2	7/9	OR T18S R2W SEC36	Lane
	8/5	OR T18S R2W DC67	
	9/9	OR T18SR 2W DC70	
	12/8	OR T18 R2W SEC20	
	15/5	OR T18S R3W DC40	
Martin Creek-Drain No 1	2/4	OR T21S R4W SEC13	Lane
Rainbow Valley Tap to Lane-Wend. No 1	3/4	OR T18S R5W SEC12	Lane

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/ Michelle Colletti

Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 2, 2020

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: FY 19 Alvey Transmission Line Maintenance (TLM) District Priority Poles & Access Road Maintenance Project

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 and Linn counties, Oregon:

- Albany – Lebanon No.1
- Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1
- Dorena Tap to Alvey – Martin Creek No. 1
- Lookout Point – Alvey No. 1
- Lookout Point – Alvey No. 2
- Martin Creek – Drain No. 1
- Rainbow Valley Tap to Lane –Wendson No. 1

The above transmission lines project locations are situated on private woodlots, cultivated lands, urban areas, and municipal public lands. Primary land uses include residential, timber production, farming, and public lands. All proposed project locations are located greater than 300 feet from fish bearing streams and rivers. A freshwater emergent wetland is located approximately 600 feet east of Lookout Point – Alvey No. 1 at 6/6 in Elijah Bristow State Park. Structure 12/8 on the Lookout Point – Alvey No. 1 line is located in the Buford Recreation Area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A cultural survey was performed at all wood pole replacement locations, associated landings, and proposed road improvement locations. No archaeological resources were identified during the survey. Five BPA transmission lines in the APE are considered minimally eligible for the NRHP, however proposed impacts would not have an adverse effect on the lines. SHPO concurred with BPA's no adverse effect to historic properties determination on March 17, 2020.

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; SHPO; 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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All wood pole replacements would be in-kind and be placed in the same location as the existing poles. 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)

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: 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:

- On Lookout Point-Alvey No. 1 at 12/8 the Buford Recreation Area has specified a native seed mix that would be used to revegetate landings and all disturbed area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status species present. Project activities would temporarily disturb local wildlife during construction, but the disturbance would be limited to the already impacted right-of-way and would not substantially alter the long term 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)

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

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 below minimization measures while working near water bodies, there would be “No Effect” on water bodies, floodplains, and fish.

Note:

- No ground-disturbing construction 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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Project areas are located in uplands and project activities do not have the potential to impact wetlands with the implementation of the below conditions.

Note:

- For the proposed work at Lookout Point – Alvey No. 1 at structure 6/6, any excess soil generated from the pole replacement would be disposed of in an upland area away from the wetland.
- All appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs would be utilized for ground disturbing activities.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities are not expected to impact groundwater or aquifers. The maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project would not result in permanent changes or impacts to land use. The project area contains two specially designated areas, the Buford Recreation Area and the Elijah Bristow State Park. One of the specially designated areas, the Buford Recreation Area, may require temporary (approximately 3 days) access restrictions to recreation trail use at the Buford Recreation Area. If needed, the trail closures would be for a short period and there would be multiple alternate trails for recreation use during the work period.

Note:

- If necessary, trail access restrictions would be coordinated through the land management agency, BPA Realty, and BPA Environment.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

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 in the same location.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Exhaust and dust from utility and construction equipment may temporarily reduce air quality in the immediate project area.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA personnel would develop a site-specific health and safety plan to address any hazards during the proposed work. The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line and to maintain power delivery in the region.

Note:

- Prior to construction additional coordination with the Buford Recreation Area would occur. If necessary, trail access restrictions at the Buford Recreation Area would be coordinated through the land management agency, BPA Realty, and BPA Environment.

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 BPA Realty Specialist sent project notice letters to landowners in May of 2020. Coordination with the Elijah Bristow State Park and Buford Recreation Area occurred in December 2019 and March 2020 respectively. Prior to construction additional coordination with the Buford Recreation Area would occur. If necessary, trail access restrictions would be coordinated through the land management agency, BPA Realty, and BPA Environment.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti, EPR-4
Physical Scientist

Date: November 2, 2020