

# memorandum

DATE: August 22, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Darin Bowman  
Civil Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

Manuel Campos  
Civil Engineer – TELF-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Access road improvements along portions of the Marion-Alvey #1 and Marion-Lane #1 transmission line rights-of-way.

**PP&A Project No:** 1961

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance activities...for structures, rights of way, infrastructures such as roads, equipment... routine maintenance activities, corrective...are required to maintain...infrastructures...in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designed purpose.

**Location:** The project area is located in Marion and Linn counties, Oregon, in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Salem and Eugene districts. Project locations are listed below:

Township	Range	Section(s)
9S	1E	9, 16, 18, 21, 28, 33
10S	1E	4, 5, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31
10S	1W	36
11S	1W	1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36
12S	1W	1, 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35
13S	1W	1, 10, 11, 15, 16, 21, 28

**Proposed by:** BPA

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to improve existing access roads for the Marion-Alvey #1 and the Marion-Lane #1 transmission lines in Marion and Linn counties, Oregon. The project includes blading, rocking, and installing proper drainage for the existing access roads that are degraded with rutting, erosion, cut bank destabilization, and improper surface water drainage characteristics. All road maintenance will take place within the existing road prism.

Access road maintenance will be limited to minor blading, grading and rocking of access road segments that have become impassable. All road maintenance will take place in the existing road prism.

The proposed action will allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which will help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in the region. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B, of Subpart D, of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25 (a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25 (a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211.

Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health; (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

With the actions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We, therefore, determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe, for:  
Benjamin J. Tilley  
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 22, 2011

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Marion-Alvey/Marion-Lane Access Road Improvement Project

PP&A Project No.: 1961

Prepared by: Ben Tilley Routing: KEP-Alvey Date: 08/16/2011

This project has been found to **not** adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cultural Resource Survey completed 07/19/11. Six sites found, three require no earthmoving at specific locations (13/2, 22/2, 23/3). Project scope has changed to not include landing creation at tower sites. Minor access road improvements will be made according to original scope and the mentioned locations will be avoided completely.</li> <li>▪ Crews and equipment are to use existing access roads to and from each work site. Any access road maintenance performed will be limited to the existing road prism.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file: Effects Determination for T&E Species.