

# memorandum

DATE: May 21, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Chad Hamel  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** 2012 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

**PP&A Project No.:** 2307 (Albany-Lebanon #1), 2309 (Blue River Tap), 2311 (Cougar-Thurston #1), 2312 (Eugene-Alvey #2), 2313 (Eugene-Lane #1), 2314 (Hawkins-Alvey #1)

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

**Location:** Various transmission lines located in Linn and Lane counties, Oregon. Refer to Project Location Attachment for transmission lines and corresponding structure locations.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood poles and associated structural/electrical components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along the subject transmission lines. Replacement will be in-kind and will utilize the existing holes to minimize ground disturbance. If necessary, an auger will be used to remove any loose soil from the existing hole prior to new wood pole placement. Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at these locations.

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'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). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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 unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 21, 2102

Attachments:

Project Location

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Project Location

<b>Transmission Line</b>	<b>Structure(s)</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>County, State</b>
Albany-Lebanon #1	8/1, 8/2	12S	3W	2	Linn, OR
Blue River Tap	1/4	16S	4E	27	Lane, OR
Cougar-Thurston #1	10/5, 10/6	17S	3E	1	Lane, OR
	11/7, 11/8	17S	3E	2	Lane, OR
	13/4, 14/5	17S	3E	3	Lane, OR
	19/6	16S	2E	34	Lane, OR
	20/3, 20/6	16S	2E	33	Lane, OR
	25/1	17S	1E	11	Lane, OR
	26/1	17S	1E	10	Lane, OR
	27/2, 28/1	17S	1E	9	Lane, OR
Eugene-Alvey #2	10/1	18S	3W	20	Lane, OR
	13/3	18S	3W	23	Lane, OR
Eugene-Lane #1	1/2	17S	4W	22	Lane, OR
Hawkins-Alvey #1	6/1	18S	3W	21	Lane, OR
	7/9, 8/5	18S	3W	22	Lane, OR
	8/5	18S	3W	23	Lane, OR

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** 2012 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacement Projects

**Work Order #:** 2307 (Albany-Lebanon #1), 2309 (Blue River Tap), 2311 (Cougar-Thurston #1),  
2312 (Eugene-Alvey #2), 2313 (Eugene-Lane #1), 2314 (Hawkins-Alvey #1)

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landing construction is not planned or anticipated at any of the locations listed. If landing construction becomes necessary for wood pole removal at sites not previously surveyed, an onsite cultural monitor will be required during construction activities. Minor rock placements at selected sites on the Cougar-Thurston #1 will occur to facilitate access to uneven surfaces.</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> <li>▪ In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified.</li> </ul>		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An historical mapping (1933) of Willamette daisy occurs adjacent to structure 10/1 on the Eugene-Alvey #2 line. Surveys for ESA-listed species were conducted on this corridor section in 2011 and revealed no presence of listed species, and no potential habitat for the Willamette daisy (Turnstone Environmental Consultants, 2011). Furthermore, this structure is scheduled for replacement in late September, which is during the dormancy period for the Willamette daisy and associated Willamette Valley Prairie species. Due to these factors, it was determined that this project will have No Effect on Willamette daisy.</li> <li>▪ Structures 1/4 on the Blue River Tap and 14/5 on the Cougar-Thurston #1 are within ½ mile of the McKenzie River, which contains bull trout and critical habitat. No access road or landing work is planned at these locations. Erosion control measures will be utilized during maintenance (i.e. silt fence, reseeding if necessary); therefore, this project will have “No Effect” on bull trout or critical habitat.</li> </ul> <p>No other listed species or critical habitat, identified in the county species lists, occur within ½ mile of the subject transmission line structures.</p>		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>At locations adjacent to surface water/wetlands, erosion control devices will be utilized to prevent sedimentation of waterways during road improvements or structure replacements. By using erosion control devices, planned work will have a “No Effect” on surface water quality or wetland habitat.</p>		
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Prime or unique farmlands

7. Special sources of water

8. Other (describe)

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: May 14, 2012