

memorandum

DATE: September 12, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-Alvey

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Stacie Hensley
Realty Specialist – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Alvey-Lane #1 Transmission Line access road maintenance

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

Location: Lane County, OR

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to maintain existing access roads associated with the Alvey-Lane #1 230-kilovolt transmission line right-of-way that currently inhibit access at specific tower locations along the line. The project includes surface improvements of existing road surfaces and landings (blading & rocking) as well as improvements and in-kind replacements of existing drainage features, and several gate repairs/installations.

Waters in which culverts are proposed to be replaced in-kind do not contain Threatened or Endangered fish species. All stream crossings are located in mix-use temperate forests adjacent to urban/residential developments, on level or nearly level existing access roads. Below is a description of the project scope of work:

Site #	ROW Location	Description	Land Use
1	1/1 – 3/4	Improve 4600' road, rock 17 landings	City of Eugene Park/Open Space
2	4/1 – 10/1	Improve 42,900' road, rock 28 landings, replace 3 culverts in-kind, replace 10 gates	Urban interface; City of Eugene Park/Open Space
3	10/1 – 10/3	Improve 2500' road, replace 2 gates	Rural Residential
4	10/4 – 13/1	Improve 14,400' road, rock 11 landings, replace 6 gates	Rural Residential

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 FR 15144, April 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.

Based on the provisions 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/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Benjamin Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 12, 2013

Attachments:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Alvey-Lane #1 Access Road Maintenance

Work Order #: 338992

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.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No historic properties affected. Scope consists of existing road surface improvements and in-kind culvert replacements. If evidence of cultural resources is discovered, work will immediate cease and contact will be made with the BPA archaeologist and SHPO.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Critical habitat for the Willamette Valley daisy occurs between 11/4 and 12/1. No blading or gate installation will occur in this area. A surface layer of rock will be added to the existing access road to facilitate access. Work will start and complete within the month of September to coincide with the dormant season for the daisy. Surveys were completed in 2011 in this area and no instances of the daisy were found at or adjacent to the access road system. A monitor will be present during work in this area to assure no vehicles or equipment leave the access road prism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No floodplains or wetlands impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation City of Eugene Parks & Open Space. Some of these roads are part of the trail system for city parklands. Coordination has occurred with the City Parks Department to facilitate trail closures and improve public safety for trail users upon completion of the project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Improvements of the road system that doubles as city parks trails will result in increased safety for trail users through wider trails and stabilized water crossings.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmland impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Effects Determination for Threatened & Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley

Date: August 29, 2013

Benjamin Tilley, KEP-Alvey