

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Pearl-Marion Transmission Tower 5/2 Emergency Bank Stabilization

Project No.: 3656

Project Manager: Todd Nicholson - TELF-TPP-3

Location: Clackamas County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to stabilize a slide that is threatening to undermine tower 5/2 along the Pearl-Marion #1 500 kV transmission line. The proposal is to construct a retaining structure buttress to restabilize the bank and replace the native material back to the original surface and grade. As depicted in the attached drawing, filter fabric will be laid at the base of the scarp, with an addition of drainage rock and then small rip rap. Native material that has sloughed off below over the existing access road will be replaced atop the rip rap, and then covered with jute mat and hydroseeded for long term stability.

Access road improvements need to be made to get equipment to the work site. Approximately 1700' of existing access road will be reconstructed from SW Advance Rd. with geotextile fabric and 3" minus rock. Additionally, approximately 2400' of road will be reconstructed, also with geotextile fabric laid down below 3" minus crushed rock, to complete access to the site. Several nursery trees near tower 5/1 will also need to be removed to clear the road to the project work area.

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, July 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/ Benjamin Tilley

Benjamin J. Tilley

Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *April 11, 2017*

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.

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Project Site Description

The project area is an upland site within the Willamette River watershed within lands utilized for commercial nursery stock. The site is within an existing transmission line right-of-way and has been previously disturbed by routine vegetation and construction maintenance. The adjacent land is dominated by agricultural lands and the immediate site contains potted nursery stock, non-native forbs and grasses, as well as scots broom and Himalayan blackberry.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Oregon SHPO has been notified of the emergency situation and have accepted the work plan without additional surveys, reviews, or cultural monitors. In the event archaeological objects or sites (i.e., historic or prehistoric) are encountered during project implementation, BPA's cultural resource protocol will be implemented and all ground disturbance at the location will cease immediately until a professional archaeologist can be contacted to evaluate the discovery.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is in a previously disturbed right-of-way within the existing transmission line corridor, surrounded by nursery and other agricultural lands. Seepage from the toe of the slide has been exacerbated by the extended wet season and above-average precipitation for the general area. The ground disturbance for the bank stabilization expected is approximately a 50' x 50' area, which includes the native material that sloughed away from the site. No prime or unique farmlands will be negatively affected by the bank stabilization. In fact, stabilization efforts will help prevent further native material loss in and adjacent to prime farmland.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No identified listed species (federal and state) are present at or adjacent to the project site.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no federally-listed wildlife species or designated critical habitat present at or adjacent to the project area.</p>		

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



Explanation: The Willamette River is approximately 1500 feet from the project work site. Erosion BMP's will be employed to minimize any sediment movement from the site. No other waterways are adjacent to the project work site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are identified within or adjacent to any of the project work sites. BMP's employed in #5 above would minimize or prevent any potential runoff that could compromise water quality.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to impact groundwater. Disturbance from the project work would be physical in nature with no potential contaminants other than vehicular fluids that could possibly leak on-site. Spill kits will be in every vehicle and piece of work equipment present at all work locations.

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



Explanation: The project site is within existing agricultural lands primarily utilized for growing nursery stock (in pots shallowly buried in the ground for easy removal). The project will not alter the appearance or function of lands at the work sites and will maintain existing access roads for private, agricultural property owners and BPA.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Native material that has sloughed off will be replaced atop the stabilization structure. Jute matting with hydroseeding will be applied to stabilize the buttress. The site will be returned to the existing slope, shape, and appearance as much as possible. The visual impact of the overall project would be short-lived and would blend in quickly with the surrounding configurations.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Work activities for this project are maintenance-level in nature and should be completed in a short time period with minimal crews and machinery, resulting in exhaust fumes and potentially dust during dry periods. Dust control measures will be used if necessary.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise will occur from work activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions exist at identified work sites. A site-specific safety plan or Job Hazard Analysis will be developed and approved by BPA prior to work commencing. Daily job briefings will occur prior to work initiation each day to assure an overview of all potential hazards involved for that work day.

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, if necessary:

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

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA is coordinating with the landowner as possible..

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

Signed: /s/ Benjamin Tilley
Benjamin J. Tilley, EP-Alvey

Date: April 11, 2017