

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Alvey-Fairview No. 1 Elk Loop Access Road Repair

Project No.: 3,935

Project Manager: Donna Martin, TELF-TPP-3

Location: Coos 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 reconstruct an approximately 2,142-foot-long by 35-foot-wide segment of the off-ROW access road that connects structures 88/4 and 89/3 of the Alvey-Fairview No. 1 transmission line. The road will be bladed, shaped, and graveled, and 14 water bars will be installed along this segment of road. In addition, two gates will be constructed and two tank traps will be backfilled in discrete locations along different segments of the access road approximately 0.25 mile to the north and 0.6 mile to the southeast of the access road reconstruction. Work areas at each gate/tank trap location will be 100 feet long and 35 feet wide, centered on the proposed gate location.

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/ Michelle Colletti

Michelle Colletti

Physical Scientist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 19, 2018

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

Project activities would take place along the Alvey – Fairview No. 1 line from structures 88/4 to 89/3 on off-ROW access road that connects the two structures in Coos County, Oregon. The site is located on forested, Bureau of Land Management property and private property.

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> A cultural resources survey, consisting of a pedestrian survey, was conducted on the project APE. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. The APE has been previously disturbed by access road and tank trap construction and maintenance. BPA has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that this project will have no effect on historic properties, per 36 CFR 800.4 (d)(1).</p> <p><u>Note:</u> BPA’s Inadvertent Discovery plan must be available on-site at all times during project activities. 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; Oregon 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.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not disturb any previously-undisturbed soils. After ground-disturbing activities are completed, exposed soils would be stabilized using crushed rock or BMP C120 and C121 from the Western Washington Stormwater Manual. The “Meadow Mix” from BMP C120 would be used to reseed the area unless the landowner requests a different seed mix. Additional BMPs would be implemented as necessary. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area. All work is proposed to occur within previously disturbed areas.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area traverses marbled murrelet critical habitat which is comprised of marginal to lowest probable nesting habitat. The proposed project would adhere to timing restrictions and work outside the marbled murrelet nesting season (March 1st-September 30th), and additionally would not require any tree removal; therefore, the project would not impact marbled murrelet.</p>		

The project area traverses an area of northern spotted owl critical habitat. The proposed project would adhere to timing restrictions and work outside the northern spotted owl nesting season (March 1st-September 30th), and additionally would not require any tree removal; therefore, the project would not impact northern spotted owl.

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

Explanation: There are no federal/state special-status species, water bodies, or flood plains found within the project area.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: The proposed work is surficial in nature and not anticipated to impact groundwater.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: No change in land use and no specially-designated areas were identified.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to significantly impact visual quality:

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Any fugitive dust generated during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. Noise

Explanation: Construction noise from typical utility line equipment will be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: Project activities will not impact human health or safety.

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: A notification letter will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to the landowner prior to work.

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

Signed: /s/ *Michelle Colletti*
Michelle Colletti/EPR-4
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: November 19, 2018