

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** FY20 Alvey Transmission Line Maintenance (TLM) District Priority Poles and Access Road Maintenance Project

**PP&A No.:** 4825

**Project Manager:** Rusty Ludt - TEPL-TPP-1

**Location:** Lane 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 replace ten structures and improve access roads on the Dorena Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1, Eugene-Alvey No. 2, Lane-Fairview Fiber System, Lookout Point-Alvey No. 1, Lookout Point-Alvey No. 2, Martin Creek-Drain No.1, and Rainbow Tap to Lane-Wendson No. 1 transmission lines. These lines are located in BPA's Alvey TLM District (Table 1). The proposed work is necessary to maintain or repair existing transmission line infrastructure and access roads. The proposed project would include the following work elements:

- Replacement of ten wood pole transmission structures (in-kind).
- Improvement of approximately one mile of existing access roads (re-grade surface and place rock), including maintenance of associated drainage features (water bars, cross drain culverts, drain dips).
- Construct/improve four individual equipment landings (approximately 50 feet x 70 feet). Two landing zones at structure 5/7 on the Eugene – Alderwood No. 2 transmission line, and two landing zones at structure 2/5 on the Martin Creek – Drain No. 1 transmission line.

The work would be done using conventional utility line and construction equipment and techniques.

**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, Jul. 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/ Treicia Albert

Treicia Albert

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

Date: June 22, 2022

NEPA Compliance Officer

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.

**Proposed Action:** FY20 Alvey Transmission Line Maintenance (TLM) District Priority Poles and Access Road Maintenance Project

### Project Site Description

The proposed project is located in Lane county Oregon. The majority of work locations (all but structure 1/2 on the Eugene-Alvey No. 2 line) are in mixed forest areas between the Oregon Coast Mountain Range and the Pacific Ocean. Structure 1/2 on the Eugene – Alvey No. 2 line is located in the City of Eugene in residential and commercial land use areas. Table 1 below lists the township, range, section, and county for all proposed project locations.

**Table 1.**

Transmission Line	Structure	Township/Range/Section	County, State
Dorena Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1	1/1	T21S R3W Section 4	Lane, OR
	1/2	T21S R3W Section 4	Lane, OR
Eugene-Alvey No 2	1/2	T17S R4W Section 22	Lane, OR
	5/7	T18S R4W Section 10	Lane, OR
Lane-Fairview Fiber System	19/8	T18S R7W Section 6	Lane, OR
Lookout Point-Alvey No 1	12/3	T18S R2W Section 21	Lane, OR
	15/4	T18S R3W Section 13	Lane, OR
Lookout-Point-Alvey No 2	15/9	T18S R3W Section 14	Lane, OR
Martin Creek-Drain No 1	2/5	T21S R4W Section 13	Lane, OR
Rainbow Velley Tap to Lane-Wendson No 1	3/3	T18S R5W Section 11	Lane, OR

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

#### 1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on February 11, 2022.

Oregon SHPO acknowledged receipt of the consultation via an email dated March 7, 2022, and assigned the project SHPO Case No. 22-0388. BPA sent a no adverse effect to historic resources determination on March 20, 2022. SHPO concurred with the determination via an email dated April 18, 2022. No additional response was received within 30 days.

## **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All wood pole replacements would be in-kind and be placed in the same location as the existing poles. Minor augering of the existing holes may be necessary. The proposed roadway improvements would reduce erosion and degradation of the existing access roads. All disturbed soils outside of the road prism would be seeded with a native seed mix appropriate for the region, and mulched, to further stabilize soils. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected. Therefore, the proposed action would have limited temporary impacts to geology and soils.

## **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All project activities would take place within maintained transmission rights-of-way and access roads. The project work areas lack suitable habitat characteristics for sensitive plant species found in this region. Thus, it is unlikely that Federal or state special-status plant species would occur within project areas. All disturbed soils would be seeded with a native seed mix appropriate for the region, and then mulched, immediately following construction. Therefore, the proposed action would not affect special-status plant species.

## **4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No with conditions.

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status have been documented near the proposed project areas. However, the project would have minimal impact to non-sensitive wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with ground disturbance, elevated noise, and human presence. The impact to any wildlife in this area would be temporary. The project would have no effect on Federal/state special-status and no long term impact on non-sensitive wildlife species.

Notes: The following minimization measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitat.

- Drive on existing access roads.
- Reduce work area footprint to the least necessary to safely do the work.
- Stabilize and seeded with a geographic and climate-appropriate seed mix approved by the landowner.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no floodplains present within the proposed work area. No impacts to water, floodplains, or fish are expected to result from the proposed project.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbing activities are anticipated in wetlands. Erosion control measures would be implemented to prevent sedimentation.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities are not expected to impact groundwater or aquifers as the ground disturbance would not be deep enough to penetrate groundwater.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use is proposed as part of the project. No specially-designated areas were identified within the project limits. The project would not result in changes or impacts to land use or specially-designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not alter visual quality.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Exhaust and dust from utility equipment may temporarily reduce air quality in the immediate project area.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA personnel would develop a site-specific health and safety plan to address any hazards during the proposed work. The proposed work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line and to maintain power delivery in the region.

### **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: N/A

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

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA Realty contacted adjacent and potentially affected landowners prior to project construction.

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

Signed: */s/ Treicia Albert*                      Date: June 22, 2022  
Treicia Albert, EPR-4  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)