

## Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** FY16 Alvey District Wood Pole Replacements

**Project No.:** 3460

**Project Manager:** Gary Beck TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Lane, Linn, and Douglas counties, 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 perform in-kind replacement of 28 wood pole structures along the transmission line corridors referenced above. Minor road and landing maintenance is scheduled to be performed at select wood pole replacement structures.

Transmission Line	Structure	Township	Range	Section	County	Ownership/Land Use
Albany-Lebanon #1	11/8	12S	2W	17	Linn	Agriculture
	15/4	12S	2W	26	Linn	Agriculture
Eugene-Alvey #2	1/1	17S	4W	23	Lane	Residential
	3/2	17S	4W	27	Lane	Commercial
	9/6, 9/7	18S	3W	19	Lane	Residential
	10/7	18S	3W	20	Lane	City of Eugene
	11/7	18S	3W	21	Lane	Rural Residential
Eugene-Bertlesen #1	1/1, 2/1	17S	4W	22, 23	Lane	Residential
Eugene-Lane #1	2/4, 2/5	17S	4W	21	Lane	Residential
Hawkins-Alvey #1	4/6, 4/7, 4/8, 5/2	18S	3W	19, 20	Lane	Residential
	6/2, 6/5, 6/7, 6/8	18S	3W	21	Lane	Rural Residential
	7/4, 7/6, 7/7	18S	3W	22	Lane	Rural Residential
Latham Tap	1/12	21S	3W	7	Lane	Agriculture
Lookout Point-Alvey #1	15/7	18S	3W	13	Lane	Rural Residential
Lookout Point-Alvey #2	15/2	18S	3W	14	Lane	Rural Residential
Martin Creek-Drain #1	14/2, 14/3	22S	5W	17	Douglas	Commercial/Forestry

**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/ Phil Smith, for  
Benjamin J. Tilley  
Natural Resource Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason  
Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 1, 2016

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:** Alvey District FY16 Wood Pole Replacements

---

### Project Site Description

Residential and rural residential properties comprise the majority of site descriptions for the project work locations described above. Agricultural sites primarily consist of annual grass seed fields and occur on the edges of the farmed acreage. Two structures are located in Douglas County within privately-owned commercial forest lands just above a BPA substation.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Oregon SHPO (Case No. 16-0474) concurred on June 13, 2016, that the project would likely have no effect on any historical aspect to the eight transmission lines included in the project, and on July 13, 2016, that the project would likely have no effect on any archaeological resources.</p> <p>In the unlikely event an archaeological object or site (i.e., historic or prehistoric) is encountered during project implementation, all ground disturbance at the location should cease immediately until a professional archaeologist can be contacted to evaluate the discovery.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<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. The ground disturbance for the wood pole replacements expected is that typically associated with removing a 2-pole transmission line support structure and guy-anchors (.05 acre) and installation of the replacement poles (.04 acre). Work locations in agricultural settings would be scheduled to not affect seasonal crops. No off-site fill material would be utilized on agricultural sites.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> At structures 9/6 and 9/7 on the Eugene-Alvey #2, historic state data shows potential presence of Willamette daisy. BPA conducted surveys in 2012 in this area and found no listed species presence, as well as very low potential site conditions for the species to exist in the future.</p> <p>State special-status species present near the project area include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meadow checker mallow – last observed in 1956.</li><li>2. Cusick’s mallow – last observed in 1938.</li><li>3. Shaggy horkelia – last overseved in 1937.</li></ol> <p>Due to the time period from last observation and the infrequency of observations, there is very little potential for the plants to occur in the planned disturbance footprint.</p>		

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



Explanation: There are no federally-listed plant species or designated critical habitat present at or adjacent to the project area. State special-status species present near the project area include:

1. Painted turtle – last observed 1991; one individual in a pond (Eugene-Alvey #2, Eugene-Lane #2 (1/1)).

Due to the time period from last observation and the infrequency of observations, there is very little potential for the wildlife to occur in the planned disturbance footprint.

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



Explanation: All work locations are located in residential, agricultural, or high elevation sites, lacking any adjacent surface water presence.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are identified within or adjacent to any of the project work sites.

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 would be in every vehicle and piece of work equipment present at all work locations.

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



Explanation: All residential work locations would have close coordination with residential land owners to avoid potential conflicts and prepare the work areas. Agricultural work locations would be performed after harvest season concludes (late summer/early fall). Some rural residential sites are located adjacent to City of Eugene Parks and Open Space properties. Work would be coordinated to assure public pre-notification at recreational sites and to be consistent with park maintenance objectives (i.e. reseeding, smoothing slopes for easy vegetation maintenance).

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The wood pole structures would be in-kind replacements of poles of the same size, shape, and location. Some minor rocking of the landing areas is some locations would be typical of disturbance expected with maintenance work. 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 would 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 would be developed and approved by BPA prior to work commencing. Daily job briefings would 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: Private property owners have been notified via local public notification. Identified concerns would be addressed and mitigations implemented prior to project initiation.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Phil Smith, for  
Benjamin J. Tilley, EP-Alvey  
Natural Resource Specialist

Date: August 1, 2016