

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Marion-Alvey No. 1 Access Road Improvement Project

**PP&A No.:** 4216

**Project Manager:** Ryan Martin – TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** Linn County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to improve an access road along the Marion-Alvey No. 1 Transmission Line within BPA's Alvey District. The proposed project, located between structures 22/2-22/4, would repair approximately 60 linear feet of road and replace two culverts along with adding increased protection to the inlets and outlets for those culverts. Proposed road work would include; blading, shaping, grading, brushing, and placing surface rock on existing road prisms. General equipment used for this type of road work includes: graders, rollers, bull-dozers, brush hogs, excavators, and dump trucks.

**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/ Laura Roberts*  
Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

Concur:

*/s/ Sarah T. Biegel*  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 8, 2019

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:** Marion-Alvey No. 1 Access Road Improvement Project

## Project Site Description

The project area is located along the eastern boundary of the Willamette Valley, and consists of an existing access road through agricultural lands.

Township, Range, Section	County, State	Ownership
12S, 1W, Section 24	Linn, OR	Private

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA conducted cultural resource field surveys for the proposed project. No cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. BPA sent Letters of Determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project to Oregon SHPO, and the Siletz Tribe on July 17, 2014. BPA received one response consisting of Oregon SHPO concurrence on October 2, 2014</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. <b>Geology and Soils</b></p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> During construction, all appropriate Best Management Practices would be used to implement site-specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not impact any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area. Only necessary vegetation would be removed. Any disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded with a geographic and climate-appropriate seed mix.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p> <p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not impact any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted ROW and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the line; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would not be affected.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: The proposed project area does not contain a path to fish streams. Some work would occur in dry drainages that exhibit only ephemeral flow. Typical erosion control BMPs would be implemented and no riparian habitat would be affected.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetland would be impacted by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No change in visual quality would occur from the proposed project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would 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:

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

Description: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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

Signed: /s/ Laura Roberts  
Laura Roberts, EPI-4  
Biological Scientist

Date: July 8, 2019