

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Alvey Substation Security Enhancement

Project No.: P03724

Project Manager: Gerri Colburn

Location: Lane County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B2.2 Building and equipment installation

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA would be upgrading the integrated video surveillance system/intrusion detection system at the Alvey Substation and its 500 kV high voltage yard.

Due to technology advances, aging, and increased degradation of the current security systems, and DOE's Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security design aspects not being in-line with current BPA design criteria, the current overall Alvey 500kV perimeter security system must be replaced and upgraded to conform to current BPA CIP 014 design and construction efforts.

The project would constitute the removal of all degraded CCTV fiber and power cabling; removal of all inoperable and degraded fence fiber-detection systems; removal of all inoperable and degraded security lighting-detection systems; and removal of current aging security cabinet and ancillary equipment. In-turn, the design and construction of new fiber, power, and a security cabinet; security poles within the medium security fence-line perimeter; and all upgraded perimeter intrusion detection and video analytics systems would be in compliance with BPA's best security practices and current CIP 014 design and construction standards, requirements, and specifications. Approximately six trees would also be removed that are near the fence perimeter on the Alvey Substation property.

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/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel August 18, 2020
Sarah T. Biegel Date
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: Alvey Substation Security Enhancement

Project Site Description

The project is located at the existing BPA Alvey Substation property and its 500 kV high voltage yard. The site is located in Oregon Township 18 South, Range 3 West, and Section 14. The Alvey substation property is located adjacent to the I-5 Interstate. The surrounding topography beyond the substation consists of flat agricultural and some sloped forested areas, and commercial and residential development. Some wetland areas are noticeable beyond the fence perimeter on the southeast and southwest side of the Alvey 500 kV yard.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area do not have potential to cause effects to historic and cultural resources. The proposed work is within BPA fee-owned land at Alvey substation and has been surveyed with no cultural resources identified at this location. The area has all been previously cleared and leveled as part of the construction of the substation. The proposed security enhancements and tree removal along the fence line would result in no potential to cause effects as per Section 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1).

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be minimal soil disturbance for installation of the security equipment and for the brush and tree removal near the fence line. All work is occurring at the substation property with disturbance limited to existing perimeter of the substation, and for short distances inside and outside the substation yards. Each substation consists of heavily-disturbed and modified areas often lain with fill material. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to limit soil transport by wind and water.

Notes:

- Leave roots intact in vegetation cover and tree removal operations outside the fence line.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would be occurring in the BPA substation perimeter that is currently managed for low-growing vegetation and in the immediate area outside the fence for the

removal of up to 6 evergreen trees. Small trees and brush would be cleared from the fence perimeter where needed for long-term security monitoring.

Notes: Re-seed any cleared areas with a BPA-approved mix of native low-growing species. Tree removal should be done in fall or winter.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would be occurring at an established BPA substation. Up to 6 trees would be removed near the fence line, and the sites are not identified to provide spotted owl habitat or nesting sites. Construction work for this project is expected to occur during daytime hours at the substation with limited to no-effect to any listed or special-status species.

Notes:

- Clear the brush and up to 6 trees in fall or winter before March 1 to avoid disturbing any nesting birds. Utilize applicable BMPs to limit wind and erosion of soils, and avoid impacts to wetland area on southeast side of 500 kV of high voltage yard.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Russell Creek is located about 7,000 feet northeast of the substation. There would be no in-water work occurring and construction would not be near these creeks.

Notes:

- Utilize applicable BMPs to limit wind and water erosion of soils to water bodies.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some wetland areas are located outside the southeast and southwest side of the Alvey substation.

Notes:

- The removal of the trees along the fence of the 500 kV yard should be performed by avoiding the wetland areas beyond the fence and using the gravel area outside the fence to remove the trees.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers. Infiltration to groundwater and aquifers would not be adversely impacted by the construction.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place on substation property without impact to any specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment by the security enhancements and tree and brush removal. The installation of the new cameras, poles, and associated work may be noticeable but would constitute a small overall change to the current visual states.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

Notes:

- Dust would be kept to a minimum by adhering to BMPs to limit wind and water erosion of soils to water bodies.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Workers on the project would be required to follow all applicable state and/or Federal safety standards as the majority of work would occur from the inside the substation grounds, and if work occurs outside, access to the active work sites would be controlled and monitored. In addition, the proposed work furthers BPA's compliance with NERC-CIP standards, and protects critical assets from theft, vandalism, and terrorism, and provides a safe and reliable network for 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: Alvey Substation is a BPA-owned substation and the project site is accessed by a BPA entrance road.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey August 18, 2020
Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist