

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Latham Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1 Clearance Violation Correction

Project No.: P03558

Project Manager: Rusty Ludt IV, TEPL-TPP-1

Location: Lane County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to correct a clearance violation on the Latham Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1 transmission line that is caused by a billboard between structures 2/13 and 2/14 near Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon (Township 21 South, Range 3 West, Donation Land Claim 41). The project is required to bring the transmission line into compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), thereby ensuring system safety and reliability and preventing damage to the lines or equipment.

To correct the clearance violation, BPA would install a new intermediate transmission structure opposite the billboard. The new, approximately 80-foot-tall, wood monopole structure would be located on the existing centerline approximately 120 feet ahead on line from structure 2/13. Installation of the new structure and counterpoise would require auguring a hole with a truck-mounted auger and then lifting and positioning the structure into the hole with a crane. A bucket truck would be used to install additional hardware on the structure and attach the conductor. Excavated soil would be used for backfill or spread evenly around the base of the structure. The total work area would be limited to a 50-foot circle centered on the new structure. No access road work or landing pad construction would be required.

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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Salient CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol P. Leiter

Carol P. Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange August 31, 2021

Katey C. Grange

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: Latham Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1 Clearance Violation Correction

Project Site Description

The project site is located entirely within BPA's existing Latham Tap to Alvey-Martin Creek No. 1 transmission line right-of-way (ROW) near Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon (Township 21 South, Range 3 West, Donation Land Claim 41). The ROW where the new transmission structure would be installed consists of a gravel access road and some low-growing grasses that are regularly mowed. The closest water body is Lane Creek, which crosses through the ROW approximately 100 feet northeast of the proposed structure location. Interstate-5 parallels the ROW to the south, and the ROW is bordered to the north by a small isolated stand of young trees with a large industrial property farther to the north.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would require minor ground disturbance in a previously-disturbed area within the original transmission line construction footprint. No built historic resources are present. Therefore, the undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would require minor ground disturbance in a previously-disturbed area. Standard construction best management practices would prevent soil erosion and sedimentation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would crush, strip, or cover some low-growing grasses. Following completion of the project, disturbed areas would be reseeded and would quickly revegetate. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on special-status plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary wildlife disturbance could occur from elevated noise during construction. However, wildlife species that could be present in the area would likely be habituated to this level of disturbance given the proximity to Interstate-5, and work would take no more than two days to complete. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status wildlife species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on special-status wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Lane Creek is located approximately 100 feet northeast of the project site. The proposed action would require minor ground disturbance, and standard construction best management practices would prevent soil erosion from impacting Lane Creek. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact water bodies and floodplains and would have no effect on special-status fish species or habitats.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present within the project site. Standard construction best management practices would prevent soil erosion from impacting off-site wetlands, if present. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Auguring depth could reach groundwater. However, the project would not generate or use hazardous materials that would contaminate groundwater or aquifers, if present. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would not impact land use or specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Installing a new 80-foot-tall, wood monopole structure would constitute a minor visual change relative to the scale of existing structures and the surrounding land use. The project site is not located in a visually sensitive area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would result in a minor and temporary increase in dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. There would be no long-term change in air quality following completion of the proposed action.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would result in minor and temporary noise from the use of vehicles, heavy equipment, and power tools during construction. There would be no permanent change in ambient noise following completion of the proposed action.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would be completed by transmission line maintenance professionals trained in proper techniques and equipment use. The project would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. Therefore, no impacts to human health and safety are expected as a result of the proposed action.

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: The proposed action would be carried out within BPA's existing transmission line right-of-way easement, which is located on private property owned by Weyerhaeuser Company. BPA has notified Weyerhaeuser Company of the proposed action. No further landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette August 31, 2021
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient CRGT