

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Alvey-Fairview Slide Repair Project

**Project No.:** 3986

**Project Manager:** Erich Orth

**Location:** Coos and Douglas counties, OR

Transmission Line ROW	Nearest Structure	Township	Range	Section	County	Ownership/Land Use
Alvey-Fairview No.1	59/5	26S	7W	23	Douglas	Private/Grazing
Alvey-Fairview No.1	60/6	26S	7W	26	Douglas	Private/Grazing
Alvey-Fairview No.1	93/4	28S	11W	3	Coos	Bureau of Land Management

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to repair three landslides that were identified on the Alvey-Fairview No.1 transmission line near structures 59/5, 60/6, and 93/4.

Near structure 59/5, a landslide is currently blocking the roadside ditch and disrupting the flow of road drainage. Approximately 440 cubic yards of landslide soil would be removed and either taken off-site or placed within the ROW. The roadside ditch would be re-established. Approximately 440 cubic yards of rock would be placed on re-graded slopes for stabilization.

Around the base of structure 60/6, an over-steepened slope and tension cracks require that excess soil is removed from the area around two of the three poles of the structure 60/6. Soil would be spread in the existing landing area. Additional rock may be added for erosion control and landing improvements.

Near structure 93/4, approximately 165 feet of access road slumped between one and five feet vertically and one foot horizontally. The road would be re-established within the existing footprint.

Following the excavation and placement of soil, all disturbed areas would be stabilized for erosion and sediment control, and revegetated with a seed mix appropriate for the right-of-way. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project would include a combination of the following: a dump truck, a bulldozer, a backhoe, an excavator, and work 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, 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/ Oden Jahn*  
Oden Jahn  
Physical Scientist

Concur:

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

Date: *June 18, 2018*

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.

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### Project Site Description

The landslides are located on grass and shrub right-of-way surrounded by privately-owned rural residential and Bureau of Land Management forested properties.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

<b>Environmental Resource Impacts</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance</b>	<b>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</b>
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Explanation:</u> The three access road segments that comprise this project were previously surveyed during the 2014 cultural resource survey conducted for the rebuild of the Alvey-Fairview No. 1 transmission line in 2014. As a result of that survey, no cultural resources were identified within the vicinity of those three segments. The BPA archaeologist has determined that this project has No Potential to Impact Historic Properties and no additional Section 106 review is necessary. The Coos District BLM archaeologist was consulted, and concurs with BPA’s recommendation for the segment of the project on BLM land.</li> </ul> <p>BPA’s Inadvertent Discovery plan must be available on-site at all times during project activities. In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager; interested tribes; SHPO; and the appropriate local, state, and Federal agencies. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not disturb any previously-undisturbed soils. After ground-disturbing activities are completed, exposed soils would be stabilized using crushed rock or BMP C120 and C121 from the Western Washington Stormwater Manual. The “Meadow Mix” from BMP C120 would be used to reseed the area unless the landowner requests a different seed mix. Additional BMPs would be implemented as necessary. No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plant species are recorded in the project area.</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitats are recorded in the project area.</p>		

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



Explanation: No in-water work is proposed. Only the landslide near 59/5 is near a small stream that is expected to be dry during the time of construction.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands present in the landslide areas.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is surface in nature and not anticipated to impact groundwater.

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



Explanation: No change in land use and no specially-designated areas were identified.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The proposed work is not anticipated to significantly impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Any fugitive dust generated during project implementation is expected to be temporary and minimal.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction noise from typical utility line equipment will be temporary and localized.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project activities will 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: A notification letter will be sent by the BPA Realty Specialist to the landowners prior to work.

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

Signed: */s/ Oden Jahn*  
Oden Jahn  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: *June 18, 2018*