

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Kenyon Mountain Access Road Slide Repair

Project No.: P01237

Project Manager: Lisa Henry, TIPF-CSB-2

Location: Coos County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to partially fund, in the amount of \$25,000, the slide repair of a multi-easement access road that leads to the Kenyon Mountain Communication Site where BPA operates and maintains radio equipment. The access road, currently impassable, would be repaired by the landowner, Manulife Investment Management (Manulife).

To repair the approximately 210 feet of slide-damaged access road, Manulife would create a new roadbed by cutting approximately 10 feet into the hillside, construct a rip-rap wall to support the slope of the road, and place surface rock. This work would require removal of approximately 3,400 cubic yards of sediment from the hillside and approximately 100 cubic yards of failed fill material on the slope of the road. Excavated material would be stockpiled at a nearby Manulife yard previously used for logging operations. Minor roadside vegetation clearing and ditch construction would also be required.

General equipment used for the proposed slide repair includes bulldozers, excavators, and dump trucks.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025, Interim Final Rule) and the current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures*, BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Laura Roberts
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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: Kenyon Mountain Access Road Slide Repair

Project Site Description

The proposed slide repair area is located along an existing access road in southwestern Oregon at Township 29S, Range 9W, and Section 33. The repair area occurs at approximately 2,900 feet above sea level on steep slopes where vegetation consists of smaller trees and shrubs. The project area is surrounded by forest lands managed for timber. No surface waters occur within or downslope of the slide repair area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA sent consultation that detailed the proposed slide repair and determined that the project would result in no historic properties affected to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on March 17, 2026. BPA received concurrence of its determination from SHPO on April 15, 2026. No other comments were received during the 30-day response period.

Notes:

- Implement the Post Review Discovery Protocol in the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during implementation. Discontinue all ground-disturbing activity in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor impacts, such as movement and compaction, to geology and soils would occur from slide repair work. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP) would be implemented by Manulife prior to initiating work.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status plant species or habitats occur within the slide repair area. Impacts to plants would be minor and would consist of approximately 0.05 acre of permanent vegetation loss from slide repair and temporary impacts from roadside vegetation clearing. Appropriate BMPs would be implemented by Manulife prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities and all unrocked disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded upon project completion.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status wildlife species or habitats occur in the slide repair area. The project would have temporary noise and disturbance impacts to local wildlife species related to construction equipment noise and human presence. Impacts would be temporary and suitable habitat occurs adjacent to the project area accessible to wildlife during construction.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Surface waters do not occur within or below the slide repair area; therefore, the slide repair would have no impact to surface waters.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Wetlands do not occur within the slide repair area; therefore, the slide repair would have no impact to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to groundwater or aquifers are anticipated as the proposed slide repair disturbance would not be deep enough to penetrate groundwater.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in land use or specially-designated areas as a result of the slide repair.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Slide repair would have minimal impacts to visual quality as it would be consistent with the existing access road.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of vehicle emissions would occur during slide repair. However, there would be no substantial change to air quality from what was occurring previously when the road was passable.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours from the proposed slide repair. Future noise levels are expected to be similar to those that were previously occurring when the road was passable.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During slide repair implementation, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Therefore, implementation of the proposed action 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: 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: BPA Realty is in coordination with Manulife.

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

Signed:

Laura Roberts
Environmental Protection Specialist