

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Lookout Point-Alvey No. 2 15/10 Urgent Structure Replacement

PP&A No.: 7120

Project Manager: Andrew Hsu – TIPL-TPP-1

Location: Lane County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace Lookout Point-Alvey No. 2 structure 15/10, which is located on private property in Lane County, Oregon. This project would replace the structure in kind, which would be done by pulling the existing poles out of the ground, auguring the existing holes and placing a new pole in the ground. In some instances, a backhoe would be necessary to excavate a larger hole for a pole to prevent sediment from collapsing. If necessary, new holes would be excavated, typically within 5 feet of the existing hole. Old anchors and guy wires would be removed and replaced with 6 new anchors and guy wires. Existing access would be used and no access road improvements would occur.

The Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act directs BPA to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, repair, relocate, and replace the transmission system, including facilities and structures appurtenant thereto. (16 United States Code [U.S.C] § 838i(b)). The Administrator is further charged with maintaining electrical stability and reliability, selling transmission and interconnection services, and providing service to BPA's customers. (16 U.S.C § 838b(b-d)). The Administrator is also authorized to conduct electrical research, development, experimentation, tests, and investigation related to construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission systems and facilities. (16 U.S.C § 838i(b)(3)).

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 *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), 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.

/s/ Steven Selser

Steven D. Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey C. Grange Date: July 8, 2026

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: Lookout Point-Alvey No. 2 15/10 Urgent Structure Replacement

Project Site Description

The project would be located on BPA's Lookout Point-Alvey No. 2 transmission line at structure 15/10, in an agricultural field. It is adjacent to Twin Buttes Road and is 0.15 miles north of I-5 in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. Land use in the area is agricultural.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: June 1, 2026- BPA send out a joint initiation and determination letter under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). BPA made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties per §36 CFR 800.5(b). Consulting parties consisted of Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The 30-day comment period for the NHPA Section 106 consultation ended with no comments.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during structure replacement and guy wire anchoring replacement. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to vegetation is anticipated. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species, as there are none in the project area. No impacts to state or federally sensitive species are anticipated, since there are not present. Project activities would be limited to the already impacted transmission line right-of-way and would not substantially alter existing plant communities.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have a small impact on wildlife and habitat related to temporary disturbance associated with elevated equipment noise and human presence. The project would have no impact to state or federally-listed sensitive species, as there are none in the project vicinity.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is not located within a floodplain and there are no nearby water bodies that support resident, anadromous, or ESA-listed fish. Erosion control best management practices combined with the distance to the nearest waterbody would ensure that sedimentation would not enter into any water body.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are within the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be about 12 feet below ground surface.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use. No specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The 3-pole wood structure would be replaced in-kind and not alter the visual quality of the surrounding area. All work would be performed within existing transmission line right-of-way.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have a temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust generated during construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be temporary construction noise, but this would be localized during daytime working hours and occur over four to five days. Operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would allow safe and timely access to the transmission line, which would help reduce outage times and maintain reliable power in 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: All activities have been coordinated with the landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Steven Selser

Steven Selser

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: July 8, 2026