

4.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

4.6.1 Setting

Materials and waste may be considered hazardous if they are poisonous (toxicity), can be ignited by open flame (ignitability), corrode other materials (corrosivity), or react violently, explode or generate vapors when mixed with water (reactivity). The term “hazardous material” is defined in law as any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment.¹ In some cases, past industrial or commercial uses on a site can result in spills or leaks of hazardous materials and petroleum to the ground; thus resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. Federal and State laws require that soils having concentrations of contaminants such as lead, gasoline, or industrial solvents that are higher than certain acceptable levels must be handled and disposed as hazardous waste during excavation, transportation, and disposal. The California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Section 66261.20-24 contains technical descriptions of characteristics that would cause soil to be classified as a hazardous waste. The use of hazardous materials and disposal of hazardous wastes are subject to numerous laws and regulations at all levels of government.

In addition to toxic substances, the CPUC generally provides information about Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) in its environmental documents, including this EIR, to inform the public and decision makers; however, it does not consider EMF, in the context of CEQA, as an environmental impact because there is no agreement among scientists that EMF creates a potential health risk and because CEQA does not define or adopt standards for defining any potential risk from EMF. For informational purposes, additional information about EMF generated by transmission lines is provided in Appendix D.

Existing Environment

Existing Contamination

Environmental Data Resources Inc. (EDR) conducted a regulatory database search of sites in the study area, including the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, and alternatives, that are listed on agency files for the documented use, storage, generation, or releases of hazardous materials and/or petroleum products (EDR, 2007). The database search process reviews dozens of lists generated by federal, State, county, and/or city regulatory agencies for historically contaminated properties, and for businesses that use, generate, or dispose of hazardous materials or petroleum products in their operation. In addition, the database search reviews lists of active contaminated sites that are currently undergoing monitoring and remediation. The databases searched and reviewed by EDR are listed in Table 4.6-1.

¹ State of California, Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.95, Section 25501(o).

TABLE 4.6-1
REGULATORY AGENCY DATABASES ACCESSED

Database	Type of Record	Agency
NPL	National Priority List	USEPA
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System	USEPA
CERCLIS FRAP	CERCLIS No Further Remedial Action Planned	USEPA
RCRA TSD	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	USEPA
ERNS	Emergency Response Notification System of Spills	NRC
HMIRS	Hazardous Materials Information Reporting System	USDOT
US ENG CONTROLS	Engineering Controls Sites List	USEPA
US INST CONTROL	Sites with Institutional Controls	USEPA
DOD	Department of Defense Sites	USGS
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Sites	USACE
US BROWNFIELDS	A Listing of Brownfield Sites	USEPA
CONSENT	Superfund (CERCLA) Consent Decrees	DOJ
ROD	Records of Decision	USEPA
UMTRA	Uranium Mill Tailings Sites	DOE
ODI	Open Dump Inventory	USEPA
TRIS	Toxic Chemical Release Inventory System	USEPA
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act	USEPA
FTTS	Pesticide enforcement actions	USEPA
SSTS	Section 7 Tracking Systems	USEPA
RADINFO	Radiation Information Database	USEPA
CDL	Clandestine Drug Labs	DEA/DTSC
ICIS	Integrated Compliance Information System	USEPA
LUCIS	Land Use Control Information System	DON
DOT OPS	Incident and Accident Data	USDOT, DOPS
PADS	PCB Activity Database System	EPA
MLTS	Material Licensing Tracking System	NRC
MINES	Mines Master Index File	DOL
FINDS	Facility Index System./Facility Registry System	USEPA
RAATS	RCRA Administrative Action Tracking System	USEPA
Hist Cal-Sites	Calsites Database	DTSC
CA Bond Exp. Plan	Bond Expenditure Plan	DOHS
SCH	School Property Evaluation Program	DTSC
Toxic Pits	Toxic Pits Cleanup Act Sites	SWRCB
CA WDS	Waste Discharge System	SWRCB
WMUDS/SWAT	Waste Management Unit Database	SWRCB
Cortese	Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List	Cal EPA
SWRCY	Recycler Database	Department of Conservation
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	RWQCB

TABLE 4.6-1 (Continued)
REGULATORY AGENCY DATABASES ACCESSED

Database	Type of Record	Agency
CA FID UST	Facility Inventory Database	Cal EPA
SLIC	Statewide Spills, Leaks, Investigations, and Cleanups Cases	SWRCB
UST	Active Underground Storage Tank Facilities	RWQCB
HIST UST	Hazardous Substances Storage Container Database	SWRCB
AST	Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tank Facilities	SWRCB
SWEEPS UST	Statewide Environmental Evaluation and Planning System UST Listing	SWRCB
CHMIRS	California Hazardous Material Incident Report System	OES
Notify 65	Proposition 65 Records	SWRCB
DEED	Deed Restriction Listing	DTSC
VCP	Voluntary Cleanup Program Properties	DTSC
DRYCLEANERS	Cleaner Facilities	DTSC
RESPONSE	State Response Sites	DTSC
HAZNET	Facility and Manifest Data	Cal EPA
EMI	Emissions Inventory Data	CARB
ENVIROSTOR	Envirostor Database	DTSC
INDIAN RESERV	Indian Reservations	USGS
INDIAN LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tanks on Indian Land	USEPA
INDIAN UST	Underground Storage Tanks on Indian Land	USEPA
Manufactured Gas Plants	Manufactured Gas Plants	EDR, Inc.

Cal EPA: California Environmental Protection Agency
 DEA: Drug Enforcement Administration
 DOC: Department of Conservation
 DOD: Department of Energy
 DOHS: Department of Health Services
 DOJ: Department of Justice
 DOL: Department of Labor
 DON: Department of Navy
 DOPS: Department of Pipeline Safety
 DTSC: Department of Toxic Substances Control
 NRC: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 OES: Office of Emergency Services
 RRC: National Response Center, U.S. Coast Guard
 RWQCB: Regional Water Quality Control Board
 SWRCB: State Water Resources Control Board
 USACE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 USDOT: U.S. Department of Transportation
 USEPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 USGS: U.S. Geological Society

SOURCE: EDR, 2007

The listed sites within the vicinity of the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, and alternative corridors are provided in Table 4.6-2. These sites may have been subjected (or are suspected of being subjected) to a release of hazardous materials or petroleum products that have resulted in contamination of soil and/or groundwater. None of the sites identified are listed as being within close proximity of the Proposed Project corridor; however, two of the sites are within 100 feet of the Weed Segment corridor and one site is approximately 1,000 feet from the alternative corridor. Due to poor or inadequate address information in agency databases, 38 additional sites were not mapped and are not represented in the table below. However, the available descriptions of those 38 additional sites indicate that any releases of hazardous materials would not likely present a substantial concern in the Proposed Project and Weed Segment corridors.

Except in residential areas (for which hazardous materials usage is generally minimal), the types of bulk hazardous materials currently stored and/or used in the study area would most likely be petroleum hydrocarbons found in underground storage tanks, such as those at service stations or auto repair shops; or in aboveground storage tanks, such as those at farm or ranch operation centers.

Wood Treatment Products

The existing transmission line poles are treated with chemicals that likely include pentachlorophenol, creosote, and chromated copper arsenate. These treatment chemicals are used in pressure treated wood to protect wood from rotting due to insects and microbial agents. These chemicals, for certain uses and quantities, can be considered to be hazardous materials, which require specific handling procedures prescribed by State and federal regulations. These chemicals are typically applied to wood transmission line poles by the manufacturer at their facility and are left to set and dry prior to installation and/or use of the poles. When the chemicals have dried, leaching from the wood into the environment is generally considered to be negligible. Additionally, the base of some of the treated wood poles may be wrapped with copper naphthenate paper, also known as CuNap wrap.² This paper has been accepted as a wood preservative for several decades and has been employed in nonpressure treatments of wood and other products. Copper naphthenate is a common preservative and its use has increased recently in response to environmental concerns associated with other wood treatment products.

Schools

There are no schools within one quarter mile of the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, or alternative options corridors. However, there are two schools (i.e., Weed Elementary and Wyeka Vista Community Day School) located within a quarter mile (approximately 1,100 feet) to the east of the proposed construction staging area site.

² CuNap wrap is a self contained delivery system for copper napthenate, the internationally recognized wood preservative that fights the damaging effects of moisture, decay and insect attack.

TABLE 4.6-2
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITES IN THE STUDY AREA

Site Name	Site Address	Approximate Distance to Project Corridors ^a	Regulatory List ^b	Last update to Database and Site Status
J.H Baxter & Co. Weed Treating	Extension of Mill Street	PP: 6,000 feet to the SE WS: 3,500 feet to the E AO: 3,000 feet to the S	NPL, CERCLIS, CORRACTS, RCRA, ENG CONTROLS, INST CONTROLS, RODS, TRIS, FINDS, HIST CAL-SITES, BEP, TOXIC PITS, DEED, ENVIROSTOR, AST	2005; Final NPL, Active
Roseburg Forest Products	98 Mill Street	PP: 6,000 feet to the SSE WS: 2,500 feet to the E AO: 3,000 feet to the S	RCRA, CORTESE, LUST, CA SLIC, HIST UST,	2001; Leak being confirmed
Weed Solid Waste Disposal Site (OLD)	Highway 97	PP: 6,500 feet to the S WS: 1,500 feet W of Weed Substation AO: 3,500 feet to the SSW	WMUDS/SWAT	1996; Active
Weed Elementary School	575 White Avenue	PP: 7,000 feet to the SSE WS: 2,000 feet to the SE AO: 4,500 feet to the S	CORTESE, LUST	LUST Case Closed
Angel Valley Market/Gas Station	1390 Union Street	PP: 5,000 feet to the SSE WS: 3,000 feet to the E AO: 2,000 feet to the S	HIST UST	Not reported
Not reported [Raw sewage on road]	1590 Alameda Avenue	PP: 3,500 feet to the S WS: 100 feet to the E AO: 1,000 feet to the S	CHMIRS	1998; Not reported
Not reported	208 Jackson Street	PP: 4,000 feet to the SSE WS: 2,000 feet to the E AO: 1,500 feet to the S	CDL	2005; Not reported
Wahlund Construction Inc.	1566 Morris Street	PP: 4,500 feet to the SSE WS: 2,000 feet to the E AO: 2,000 feet to the S	HAZNET	Not reported

^a The distances shown represent the approximate distance to closest portion of the Proposed Project (PP), Weed Segment (WS), and alternative options (AO).

^b Refer to Table 4.6-1 for definitions of the regulatory lists.

SOURCE: EDR, 2007

Airports

One general aviation airport (Weed Airport) is located in the vicinity of the study area. Weed Airport is approximately four miles northwest of the City of Weed adjacent to Interstate 5, and approximately three miles northwest of the nearest portion of the Proposed Project corridor. The Weed Airport is maintained and operated by Siskiyou County and is open to the public. It has one runway that is 5,000 feet long and 60 feet wide (Siskiyou, 2007).

Wildland Fire Conditions

The combination of highly flammable fuel, long dry summers, and steep slopes creates a natural hazard of wildland fires in many areas of Siskiyou County. Wildland fires can result in death, injury, economic losses, and a large public investment in fire fighting efforts. Woodlands and other natural vegetation can be destroyed resulting in the loss of timber, wildlife habitat, scenic quality, and recreation. Soil erosion, sedimentation of fisheries and reservoirs, and downstream flooding can also result. The mountainous areas in the study area exhibit high volumes of fuel and have a high fire hazard.

Fire protection services for unincorporated Siskiyou County are provided by the California Department of Forestry (CDF). The Siskiyou Unit manages seven fire stations, and one conservation camp. During fire season, 13 Schedule “B” engines and two dozers are staffed. The County provides funding under the Amador Plan for three stations to remain open year-round (CDF, 2005). Battalion 3, Butte Valley, provide fire protection services within the unincorporated areas of the study area (CDF, 2005).

Fire protection services and emergency medical response services in the incorporated areas of the study area are provided by the Weed Fire Department, which has one staffed fire station located at 128 Roseburg Parkway that includes two paid personnel and approximately 30 volunteer personnel. Equipment includes three fire engines and one rescue truck. The Weed Fire Department responds to calls for service within the City limits, as well as calls within an additional 15 square miles as part of the automatic aid contract within the County (WFD, 2007). The Weed Fire Department participates in the Statewide Mutual Aid System and responds with one fire engine anywhere in the State as needed. The Weed Fire Department also maintains automatic aid agreements with the CDF, the Siskiyou County Fire Warden, and others (WFD, 2007).

Regulatory Context

Table 4.6-3 provides a brief overview of federal and State hazardous materials laws and regulations with a more detailed discussion to follow.

TABLE 4.6-3
FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous Materials Management	State and federal laws require detailed planning to ensure that hazardous materials are properly handled, used, stored, and disposed of, and in the event that such materials are accidentally released, to prevent or to mitigate injury to health or the environment. These laws require hazardous materials users to prepare written plans, such as Hazard Communication Plans, Hazardous Materials Business Plans, and Chemical Hygiene Plans. Laws and regulations require hazardous materials users to store these materials appropriately and to train employees to manage them safely. A number of agencies participate in enforcing hazardous materials management requirements.
Hazardous Waste Handling	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) regulates the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous material waste. These laws impose "cradle-to-grave" regulatory systems that require generators of hazardous materials waste to handle it in a manner that protects human health and the environment to the extent possible. The DTSC permits and oversees hazardous materials waste treatment, long-term storage, and disposal facilities.
Hazardous Materials Transportation	The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) regulates the transportation of hazardous materials between states. Within California, the state agencies with primary responsibility for enforcing federal and State regulations, and for responding to transportation emergencies, are the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Together, federal and state agencies determine driver-training requirements, load labeling procedures, and container specifications. Although special requirements apply to transporting hazardous materials, requirements for transporting hazardous waste are more stringent, and hazardous waste haulers must be licensed to transport hazardous waste on public roads.
Soil and Groundwater Contamination	The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and associated Superfund Amendments provide the USEPA with the authority to identify hazardous sites, to require site remediation, and to recover the costs of site remediation from polluters. California has enacted similar laws intended to supplement the federal program. The DTSC is primarily responsible for implementing California's Superfund Law.
Emergency Response	California has developed an emergency response plan to coordinate emergency services provided by federal, State, and local government and private agencies. Responding to hazardous materials incidents is one part of this plan. The plan is administered by the State Office of Emergency Services (OES), which coordinates the responses of other agencies, including Cal EPA, CHP, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the RWQCB, and the local fire department.

State

Soil Contamination

Soils having concentrations of contaminants higher than certain acceptable levels must be handled and disposed as hazardous waste when excavated. The California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 66261.20-24 contains technical descriptions of characteristics that would classify a soil as a hazardous waste.

Hazardous Materials Management

The California Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law of 1985 (Business Plan Act) requires that businesses handling hazardous materials prepare a business plan. In January 1996, Cal EPA adopted regulations implementing a Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Regulatory Program (Unified Program). The program has six elements: hazardous waste generators and hazardous waste on-site treatment; underground storage tanks; above ground storage tanks; hazardous materials release response plans and

inventories; risk management and prevention programs; and the Unified Fire Code hazardous materials management plans and inventories. The plans are implemented at the local level, and the agency responsible for the implementation of the Unified Program is called the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

Hazardous Waste Management and Handling

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), individual states may implement their own hazardous waste programs in lieu of RCRA as long as the state program is at least as stringent as federal RCRA requirements. The USEPA must approve state programs intended to implement federal regulations. In California, Cal EPA and DTSC, a department within Cal EPA, regulate the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. The USEPA approved California's RCRA program, called the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL), in 1992. DTSC has primary hazardous material regulatory responsibility, but can delegate enforcement responsibilities to local jurisdictions that enter into agreements with DTSC for the generation, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials under the authority of the HWCL.

The hazardous waste regulations establish criteria for identifying, packaging, and labeling hazardous wastes; prescribe the management of hazardous wastes; establish permit requirements for hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation; and identify hazardous wastes that cannot be disposed of in ordinary landfills. Hazardous waste manifests must be retained by the generator for a minimum of three years. Hazardous waste manifests provide a description of the waste, its intended destination, and regulatory information about the waste. A copy of each manifest must be filed with the state. The generator must match copies of hazardous waste manifests with receipts from treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

Contaminated soils and other hazardous materials removed from a site during construction or remediation may need to be handled as hazardous waste.

Hazardous Materials Transportation

The State of California has adopted USDOT regulations for the intrastate movement of hazardous materials; State regulations are contained in 26 CCR. In addition, the State of California regulates the transportation of hazardous waste originating in the State and passing through the State (26 CCR). Both regulatory programs apply in California.

The two State agencies with primary responsibility for enforcing federal and State regulations and responding to hazardous materials transportation emergencies are the CHP and Caltrans. The CHP enforces hazardous material and hazardous waste labeling and packing regulations to prevent leakage and spills of material in transit and to provide detailed information to cleanup crews in the event of an accident. Vehicle and equipment inspection, shipment preparation, container identification, and shipping documentation are the responsibility of the CHP, which conducts regular inspections of licensed transporters to assure regulatory compliance. Caltrans

has emergency chemical spill identification teams at as many as 72 locations throughout the State that can respond quickly in the event of a spill.

Common carriers are licensed by the CHP, pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 32000. This section requires the licensing of every motor (common) carrier who transports, for a fee, in excess of 500 pounds of hazardous materials at one time, and every carrier, if not for hire, who carries more than 1,000 pounds of hazardous material of the type requiring placards.

Every hazardous waste package type used by a hazardous materials shipper must undergo tests that imitate some of the possible rigors of travel. Every package is not put through every test. However, most packages must be able to be kept under running water for a time without leaking; dropped, fully loaded, onto a concrete floor; compressed from both sides for a period of time; subjected to low and high pressure; and frozen and heated alternately.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Response

Pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, California has developed an Emergency Response Plan to coordinate emergency services provided by federal, State, and local governmental agencies and private persons. Response to hazardous materials incidents is one part of this plan. The plan is administered by the State Office of Emergency Services (OES). The OES coordinates the responses of other agencies, including the USEPA, CHP, CDFG, the RWQCBs, the local air pollution control districts (in this case, the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District (SCAPCD)), and local agencies.

Pursuant to the Business Plan Law, local agencies are required to develop “area plans” for the response to releases of hazardous materials and wastes. These emergency response plans depend to a large extent on the Business Plans submitted by people who handle hazardous materials. An area plan must include pre-emergency planning and procedures for emergency response, notification, and coordination of affected governmental agencies and responsible parties, training, and follow up.

Local

Siskiyou County

Environmental Health Services Division

The Siskiyou County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services Division’s role is to protect the health and welfare of the general public and the environment through prevention and control of disease and pollutants. The Environmental Health Services Division is divided into three programs: Consumer Protection, Hazardous Materials Management/ Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), and Land Use.

The Hazardous Materials Management Group implements the Unified Program at the local government level pursuant to Title 27 § 15110(a)(2). The Environmental Health Services became the CUPA on January 1, 1997. The Environmental Health Services Division is certified by the

Cal EPA Secretary to implement the Unified Program specified by Health and Safety Code (H&S Code § 25404(a)(1)(A) within Siskiyou County. The CUPA program regulates underground tanks, hazardous materials (including but not limited to: hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material which a handler or the CUPA has reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment, H&S Code § 25501) and any unauthorized release of hazardous material. In addition, the Hazardous Material Management Group regulates medical waste and final disposal/transfer activities of solid waste. A County-wide 911 system is in place, which is served in the unincorporated parts of the study area by the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department.

Siskiyou County General Plan

Pursuant to the Policy 37 of the Energy Element, energy facilities shall prepare and periodically update emergency plans for reasonably foreseeable accidents and emergency incidents, and such plans shall be coordinated with local public safety agencies (Siskiyou County, 1993).

City of Weed

City of Weed General Plan

The Safety Element of the General Plan includes the following policies related to fire safety and emergency services (City of Weed, 1987).

Policy E. Existing and proposed land use development proposals should be reviewed as to fire safety.

Policy F. The potential for and emergency services response to toxic or hazardous materials spills on the highway and railroad should be evaluated.

Policy G. Emergency response plans should be adequate to meet conditions expected in a "worst case" emergency scenario.

Policy H. City zoning and building ordinances shall be reviewed to ensure adequate protection from safety hazards.

4.6.2 Significance Criteria

According to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, a significant impact would occur if implementation of the project would:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;

- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area;
- f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area;
- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

Regarding criterion d), the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, and alternative corridors would not be located on a known hazardous materials site. Given the distances of the sites listed in Table 4.6-2 to the transmission line corridors, the status of the sites, types of sites, and the nature of the proposed construction activities, no impacts would occur related to locating the project on a known hazardous materials site. This subject is not addressed further in this EIR.

Regarding criterion e), no general aviation airports are located within two miles of the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, or alternative corridors (the closest airport is Weed Airport, located approximately three miles from the closest portion of the Proposed Project corridor). No impact would occur. Impacts related to aviation safety hazards associated with airports are not addressed further in this EIR.

Regarding criterion f), there are no known private airstrips located within two miles of the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, or alternative corridors. Accordingly, there would be no private airstrip safety hazards impacts. Private airport safety hazard impacts are not addressed further in this EIR.

4.6.3 Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Approach to Analysis

Potential hazardous materials and public health impacts were evaluated through a review of the Proposed Project and Weed Segment descriptions and an understanding of the hazards and risks inherent to the materials used during construction. Potential to encounter contaminated soils during construction activities was also evaluated to determine if impacts would result from construction activities.

- a) **Hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.** *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

Impact HAZ-PPWS-1: Construction would require the use of certain materials such as fuels, oils, solvents, and other chemical products that, in large quantities, could pose a potential hazard to the public or the environment if improperly used or inadvertently released. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

During project construction activities, limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, solvents, oils, etc. would be used to fuel and maintain vehicles and motorized equipment. Accidental spill of any of these substances could impact water and/or groundwater quality. Temporary bulk above-ground storage tanks and 55-gallon drums may be used for fueling and maintenance purposes. As with any liquid, during handling and transfer from one container to another, the potential for an accidental release would exist. Depending on the relative hazard of the material, if a spill were to occur of significant quantity, the accidental release could pose a hazard to construction workers, the public, as well as the environment. While the project would not require long-term operational use, storage, treatment, disposal, or transport of significant quantities of hazardous materials, hazardous materials would be used during project construction activities.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1a: *Implement Best Management Practices.* PacifiCorp and/or its contractor(s) shall implement construction best management practices including but not limited to the following:

- Follow manufacturer's recommendations on use, storage, and disposal of chemical products used in construction;
- Avoid overtopping construction equipment fuel gas tanks;
- Use tarps and adsorbent pads under vehicles when refueling to contain and capture any spilled fuel;
- During routine maintenance of construction equipment, properly contain and remove grease and oils; and
- Properly dispose of discarded containers of fuels and other chemicals.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1b: *Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan.* PacifiCorp shall prepare a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan (Plan) and implement it during construction to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws and guidelines regarding the handling of hazardous materials. The Plan shall prescribe hazardous material handling procedures to reduce the potential for a spill during construction, or exposure of the workers or public to hazardous materials. The Plan shall also include a discussion of appropriate response actions in the event that hazardous materials are released or encountered during excavation activities. The Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the commencement of construction activities.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1c: *Health and Safety Plan.* PacifiCorp shall prepare and implement a Health and Safety Plan to ensure the health and safety of construction workers and the public during construction. The plan shall include information on the appropriate personal protective equipment to be used during construction.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1d: *Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).* PacifiCorp shall ensure that an environmental training program is established and implemented to communicate environmental concerns and appropriate work practices to all construction field personnel. The training program shall emphasize site-specific physical conditions to improve hazard prevention, and shall include a review of the Health and Safety Plan and the Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan. PacifiCorp shall submit documentation to the CPUC mitigation monitor prior to the commencement of construction activities that each worker on the project has undergone this training program.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1e: *Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment.* PacifiCorp shall ensure that oil-absorbent material, tarps, and storage drums shall be used to contain and control any minor releases. Emergency spill supplies and equipment shall be kept at the project staging area and adjacent to all areas of work, and shall be clearly marked. Detailed information for responding to accidental spills and for handling any resulting hazardous materials shall be provided in the project's Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan (see Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1b), which shall be implemented during construction.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

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- b) **Hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).***

Impact HAZ-PPWS-2: *Construction activities could release previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).**

It is not anticipated that construction or operation of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would create a significant hazard to the public due to project upset or accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Accidental release of hazardous materials routinely used during construction activities are addressed under Impact HAZ-PPWS-1, above. No contamination has been identified in the Proposed Project or the Weed Segment corridors, although a portion of the Weed Segment would be within 1,500 feet of a closed landfill site and approximately 100 feet from a site where a raw sewage spill of approximately 3,600 gallons occurred in 1998. Contamination that may be associated with these sites may have the potential to migrate; however,

implementation of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not involve significant grading or large excavations that would be likely to unearth previously unknown contamination. Therefore, the potential release and mobilization of previously identified and unidentified hazardous materials would be relatively low.

Moreover, pursuant to Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1c (above), PacifiCorp would implement appropriate safety measures to ensure the safety of construction workers. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-2 (below) would ensure that potential impacts associated with releasing previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment would be less than significant. For mitigation to reduce impacts related to existing contaminated groundwater, refer to Section 4.7, *Hydrology and Water Quality*.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-2: PacifiCorp's Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan shall include provisions that would be implemented if any subsurface hazardous materials are encountered during construction. Provisions outlined in the plan shall include immediately stopping work in the contaminated area and contacting appropriate resource agencies, including the CPUC designated monitor, upon discovery of subsurface hazardous materials. The plan shall include the phone numbers of County and State agencies and primary, secondary, and final cleanup procedures. The Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the commencement of construction activities.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Removal and Disposal of Hazards Materials

Treated wood poles associated with the existing 69 kV line to be removed under the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would either be reused (by the public or PacifiCorp employees) or disposed of as waste pursuant to PacifiCorp's Waste Management Guideline for Treated Wood (PacifiCorp, 2006). If the wood would be reused, PacifiCorp would provide the recipient with a bill of sale and a Consumer Information Sheet that describes the type of preservative used on the specific pole. If the poles are not reusable, then the poles would be disposed of in metal containers at PacifiCorp's storage yard in Yreka. PacifiCorp has an existing contractor that would haul the poles to the City of Yreka's public landfill. The poles would ultimately be shipped to Bio Mass in White City, Oregon. Bio Mass would grind the wood and use it as alternative fuel for its electricity generation facility. If the existing wood poles are wrapped with CuNap wrap, the wrap would be removed, placed in Department of Transportation (USDOT)-approved containers, labeled as hazardous waste with project information, and transported to an appropriate consolidation area (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal and disposal of treated wood would be less than significant (Class III).

Equipment and material that would be removed from the Weed Substation would be removed using standard utility practices, while adhering to all federal, State, and local laws in regards to hazardous materials containment, control, and transport. PacifiCorp has existing contracts with waste disposal vendors (e.g., ONYX and Clean Harbors) who would provide waste management services for the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment, including characterization, profiling, manifesting, transportation, and disposal of toxic wastes generated during construction (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal, disposal, and/or recycling of existing substation and other transmission equipment would be less than significant (Class III).

Operations

During operations of the Weed Segment, a potential would exist that a transformer could fail, resulting in a spill of mineral oil. However, the Weed Substation upgrades would meet federal Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) requirements, as outlined in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112 (PacifiCorp, 2005). All spilled oil would be properly characterized and collected and transported to an approved disposal site in accordance with applicable requirements. Pursuant to USEPA requirements, PacifiCorp would inspect the equipment and any required spill containment facilities on a monthly basis (PacifiCorp, 2005). Implementation of the SPCC requirements described above would ensure that potential impacts related to a transformer malfunction oil spill would be less than significant (Class III).

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- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).**

Impact HAZ-PPWS-3: The handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste at the proposed staging area would occur within one-quarter mile of an existing school. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

No existing or proposed schools have been identified within one-quarter mile of the Proposed Project, Weed Segment, or alternative options corridors. However, Weed Elementary and Wyeka Vista Community Day schools are located approximately 1,100 feet (approximately 0.20 mile) from the proposed staging area. Construction activities at the proposed staging area would not be expected to result in releases of hazardous emissions, substances, or waste that might impact either school because PacifiCorp would be required to adhere to Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e (see above), including the development and implementation of hazardous materials best management practices, a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan, a Health and Safety Plan, and a Worker Environmental Awareness Program. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-3, the Proposed

Project and the Weed Segment would result in less than significant impacts to nearby schools.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-3: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. *Less than significant (Class III).*

Several private and public roadways, including Hoy Road, W. Lincoln Avenue, Kennedy Avenue, and Alameda Avenue, that would be crossed by the Proposed Project or the Weed Segment would likely need to be temporarily closed during transmission line stringing activities. These roadways could be used by people evacuating the area during an emergency. However, in the event of an emergency, construction crews would cease all work and would remove any equipment that would impede the flow of traffic. Access for emergency vehicles would be maintained throughout project construction. Although project construction activities may require temporary road closures, appropriate traffic control plans would be followed, and encroachment permits would be obtained from Siskiyou County and the City of Weed, depending on the jurisdiction of the road (see Section 4.11, *Traffic and Transportation*). Therefore, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. Impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. *Less than significant (Class III).*

Portions of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would be constructed in open grass and woodland areas that are susceptible to wildland fires. Heat or sparks from construction vehicles or equipment have the potential to ignite dry vegetation and cause a fire. Therefore, a moderate fire hazard would exist during construction of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment. PacifiCorp would require vehicles and equipment to primarily use existing roads to access the transmission pole sites; require project personnel to park away from dry vegetation and carry water and shovels or fire extinguishers in times of high fire hazard; and would prohibit trash burning and restrict smoking to cleared areas (PacifiCorp, 2005). By following these preventative measures, the potential for construction of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment to result in wildland fires would be reduced to less than significant (Class III).

During operations, the project could increase the risk of wildland fires in the area because induced current on the new transmission lines could result in sparks that could reach trees and/or vegetation along the transmission line corridor that could result in fire. To minimize the risk of trees falling on the transmission lines or other accidental ignition of a wildland fire from the transmission line, PacifiCorp would follow State vegetation and tree clearing requirements, including CPUC General Order 95, Public Resources Code Section 4293. Implementation of the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not result in a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Operational impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

4.6.4 Cumulative Impacts

Construction activities would increase the hazard potential in the Proposed Project and Weed Segment areas. However, it is unlikely that the Proposed Project or Weed Segment, with the other projects listed in Section 3.6, *Cumulative Projects*, would contribute to a cumulative hazards or hazardous materials related impact. Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e and HAZ-PPWS-2 identified in Section 4.6.3 would ensure that the Proposed Project and Weed Segment's construction-related hazards and hazardous materials impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable (i.e., because the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would mitigate its contribution to any potential cumulative impact). As a result, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment would have no cumulatively considerable impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials (Class II).

4.6.5 Alternatives

PacifiCorp Option 4 Alternative

- a) **Hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).**

Impact HAZ-OPT4-1: Construction would require the use of certain materials such as fuels, oils, solvents, and other chemical products that, in large quantities, could pose a potential hazard to the public or the environment if improperly used or inadvertently released. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

Hazardous materials handled during construction activities for the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would be essentially the same as for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, solvents, oils, etc. would be used to fuel and maintain vehicles and motorized equipment. Accidental spill of any of these substances could impact water and/or groundwater quality. Temporary bulk above-ground storage tanks and 55-gallon drums may be used for fueling and maintenance purposes. As with any liquid, during

handling and transfer from one container to another, the potential for an accidental release would exist. Depending on the relative hazard of the material, if a spill were to occur of significant quantity, the accidental release could pose a hazard to construction workers, the public, as well as the environment. While this alternative would not require long-term operational use, storage, treatment, disposal, or transport of significant quantities of hazardous materials, hazardous materials would be used during construction activities.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-OPT4-1: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPSW-1a through HAZ-PPSW-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

- b) **Hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).**

Impact HAZ-OPT4-2: Construction activities could release previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

It is not anticipated that construction or operation of the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would create a significant hazard to the public due to project upset or accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Accidental release of hazardous materials routinely used during construction activities are addressed under Impact HAZ-PPWS-1, above. No contamination has been identified in the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative corridor. Implementation of the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would not involve significant grading or large excavations that would be likely to unearth previously unknown contamination. Therefore, the potential release and mobilization of previously identified and unidentified hazardous materials would be relatively low and substantially the same as for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

Moreover, pursuant to Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1c, PacifiCorp would implement appropriate safety measures to ensure the safety of construction workers. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-2 would ensure that potential impacts associated with releasing previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment would be less than significant. For mitigation to reduce impacts related to existing contaminated groundwater, refer to Section 4.7, *Hydrology and Water Quality*.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-OPT4-2: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1c and HAZ-PPSW-2.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Removal and Disposal of Hazards Materials

The PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would result in removal and disposal of approximately 26 more wood poles than the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Treated wood poles to be removed would either be reused (by the public or PacifiCorp employees) or disposed of as waste pursuant to PacifiCorp's Waste Management Guideline for Treated Wood (PacifiCorp, 2006). If the wood would be reused, PacifiCorp would provide the recipient with a bill of sale and a Consumer Information Sheet that describes the type of preservative used on the specific pole. If the poles are not reusable, then the poles would be disposed of in metal containers at PacifiCorp's storage yard in Yreka. PacifiCorp has an existing contractor that would haul the poles to the City of Yreka's public landfill. The poles would ultimately be shipped to Bio Mass in White City, Oregon. Bio Mass would grind the wood and use it as alternative fuel for its electricity generation facility. If the existing wood poles are wrapped with CuNap wrap, the wrap would be removed, placed in Department of Transportation (USDOT)-approved containers, labeled as hazardous waste with project information, and transported to an appropriate consolidation area (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal and disposal of treated wood would be less than significant (Class III).

In the event that other transmission line waste materials are generated during construction, PacifiCorp has existing contracts with waste disposal vendors (e.g., ONYX and Clean Harbors) who would provide waste management services for the project, including characterization, profiling, manifesting, transportation, and disposal of toxic wastes generated during construction (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal, disposal, and/or recycling of existing transmission equipment would be less than significant (Class III).

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- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).***

No existing or proposed schools have been identified within one-quarter mile of the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative corridor. However, Weed Elementary and Wyeka Vista Community Day schools are located approximately 1,100 feet (approximately 0.20 mile) from the proposed staging area. Construction activities at the proposed staging area would not be expected to result in releases of hazardous emissions, substances, or waste that might impact either school because PacifiCorp would be required to adhere to Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e (see above), including the development and implementation of hazardous materials best management practices, a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan, a Health and Safety Plan, and a Worker Environmental Awareness Program. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-OPT4-3, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would result in less than significant impacts to nearby schools.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-OPT4-3: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. *Less than significant* (Class III).**

Several private and public roadways that would require overhead crossings associated with the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative, including Rainbow Way and State Route (SR) 97, would likely need to be temporarily closed during transmission line stringing and span guy installation activities. These roadways could be used by people evacuating the area during an emergency. However, in the event of an emergency, construction crews would cease all work and would remove any equipment that would impede the flow of traffic. Access for emergency vehicles would be maintained throughout project construction. Although project construction activities may require temporary road closures, appropriate traffic control plans would be followed, and encroachment permits would be obtained from Siskiyou County or Caltrans, depending on the jurisdiction of the road (see Section 4.11, *Traffic and Transportation*). Therefore, the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would not physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. Impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. *Less than significant* (Class III).**

Similar to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, portions of the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would be constructed in open grass and woodland areas that are susceptible to wildland fires. Heat or sparks from construction vehicles or equipment have the potential to ignite dry vegetation and cause a fire. Therefore, a moderate fire hazard would exist during construction. PacifiCorp would require vehicles and equipment to primarily use existing roads to access the transmission pole sites; require project personnel to park away from dry vegetation and carry water and shovels or fire extinguishers in times of high fire hazard; and would prohibit trash burning and restrict smoking to cleared areas (PacifiCorp, 2005). By following these preventative measures, the potential for construction of the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative to result in wildland fires would be reduced to less than significant (Class III).

During operations, the project could increase the risk of wildland fires in the area because induced current on the new transmission lines could result in sparks that could reach trees and/or vegetation along the transmission line corridor that could result in fire. To minimize the risk of trees falling on the transmission lines or other accidental ignition of

a wildland fire from the transmission line, PacifiCorp would follow State vegetation and tree clearing requirements, including CPUC General Order 95, Public Resources Code Section 4293. Implementation of the PacifiCorp Option 4 alternative would not result in a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Operational impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A Alternative

- a) **Hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.** *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

Impact HAZ-VAR/A-1: Construction would require the use of certain materials such as fuels, oils, solvents, and other chemical products that, in large quantities, could pose a potential hazard to the public or the environment if improperly used or inadvertently released. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

Hazardous materials handled during construction activities for the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would be essentially the same as for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, solvents, oils, etc. would be used to fuel and maintain vehicles and motorized equipment. Accidental spill of any of these substances could impact water and/or groundwater quality. Temporary bulk above-ground storage tanks and 55-gallon drums may be used for fueling and maintenance purposes. As with any liquid, during handling and transfer from one container to another, the potential for an accidental release would exist. Depending on the relative hazard of the material, if a spill were to occur of significant quantity, the accidental release could pose a hazard to construction workers, the public, as well as the environment. While the project would not require long-term operational use, storage, treatment, disposal, or transport of significant quantities of hazardous materials, hazardous materials would be used during project construction activities.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/A-1: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPSW-1a through HAZ-PPSW-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

- b) **Hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.** *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).

Impact HAZ-VAR/A-2: Construction activities could release previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).*

It is not anticipated that construction or operation of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would create a significant hazard to the public due to project upset or accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Accidental release of hazardous materials routinely used during construction activities are addressed under Impact HAZ-VAR/A-1, above. No contamination has been identified in the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative corridor. Implementation of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would not involve significant grading or large excavations that would be likely to unearth previously unknown contamination. Therefore, the potential release and mobilization of previously identified and unidentified hazardous materials would be relatively low.

Moreover, pursuant to Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1c, PacifiCorp would implement appropriate safety measures to ensure the safety of construction workers. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-2 would ensure that potential impacts associated with releasing previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment would be less than significant. For mitigation to reduce impacts related to existing contaminated groundwater, refer to Section 4.7, *Hydrology and Water Quality*.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/A-2: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1c and HAZ-PPSW-2.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Removal and Disposal of Hazards Materials

The Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would result in removal and disposal of approximately 26 more wood poles than the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Treated wood poles to be removed would either be reused (by the public or PacifiCorp employees) or disposed of as waste pursuant to PacifiCorp's Waste Management Guideline for Treated Wood (PacifiCorp, 2006). If the wood would be reused, PacifiCorp would provide the recipient with a bill of sale and a Consumer Information Sheet that describes the type of preservative used on the specific pole. If the poles are not reusable, then the poles would be disposed of in metal containers at PacifiCorp's storage yard in Yreka. PacifiCorp has an existing contractor that would haul the poles to the City of Yreka's public landfill. The poles would ultimately be shipped to Bio Mass in White City, Oregon. Bio Mass would grind the wood and use it as alternative fuel for its electricity generation facility. If the existing wood poles are wrapped with CuNap wrap, the wrap would be removed, placed in Department of Transportation (USDOT)-approved containers, labeled as hazardous waste with project information, and transported to an

appropriate consolidation area (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal and disposal of treated wood would be less than significant (Class III).

In the event that other transmission line waste materials are generated during construction, PacifiCorp has existing contracts with waste disposal vendors (e.g., ONYX and Clean Harbors) who would provide waste management services for the project, including characterization, profiling, manifesting, transportation, and disposal of toxic wastes generated during construction (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal, disposal, and/or recycling of existing transmission equipment would be less than significant (Class III).

- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).**

No existing or proposed schools have been identified within one-quarter mile of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative corridor. However, Weed Elementary and Wyeka Vista Community Day schools are located approximately 1,100 feet (approximately 0.20 mile) from the proposed staging area. Construction activities at the proposed staging area would not be expected to result in releases of hazardous emissions, substances, or waste that might impact either school because PacifiCorp would be required to adhere to Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e (see above), including the development and implementation of hazardous materials best management practices, a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan, a Health and Safety Plan, and a Worker Environmental Awareness Program. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/A-3, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would result in less than significant impacts to nearby schools.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/A-3: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

- g) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. *Less than significant* (Class III).**

Several private and public roadways that would require overhead crossings associated with the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative, including Rainbow Way and SR 97, would likely need to be temporarily closed during transmission line stringing and span guy installation activities. These roadways could be used by people evacuating the area during an emergency. However, in the event of an emergency, construction crews would cease all work and would remove any equipment that would impede the flow of traffic.

Access for emergency vehicles would be maintained throughout project construction. Although project construction activities may require temporary road closures, appropriate traffic control plans would be followed, and encroachment permits would be obtained from Siskiyou County or Caltrans, depending on the jurisdiction of the road (see Section 4.11, *Traffic and Transportation*). Therefore, the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would not physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. Impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

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- h) **Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. *Less than significant* (Class III).**

Similar to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, portions of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would be constructed in open grass and woodland areas that are susceptible to wildland fires. Heat or sparks from construction vehicles or equipment have the potential to ignite dry vegetation and cause a fire. Therefore, a moderate fire hazard would exist during construction. PacifiCorp would require vehicles and equipment to primarily use existing roads to access the transmission pole sites; require project personnel to park away from dry vegetation and carry water and shovels or fire extinguishers in times of high fire hazard; and would prohibit trash burning and restrict smoking to cleared areas (PacifiCorp, 2005). By following these preventative measures, the potential for construction of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative to result in wildland fires would be reduced to less than significant (Class III).

During operations, the project could increase the risk of wildland fires in the area because induced current on the new transmission lines could result in sparks that could reach trees and/or vegetation along the transmission line corridor that could result in fire. To minimize the risk of trees falling on the transmission lines or other accidental ignition of a wildland fire from the transmission line, PacifiCorp would follow State vegetation and tree clearing requirements, including CPUC General Order 95, Public Resources Code Section 4293. Implementation of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation A alternative would not result in a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Operational impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B Alternative

- a) **Hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).**

Impact HAZ-VAR/B-1: Construction would require the use of certain materials such as fuels, oils, solvents, and other chemical products that, in large quantities,

could pose a potential hazard to the public or the environment if improperly used or inadvertently released. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).*

Hazardous materials handled during construction activities for the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would be essentially the same as for the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, solvents, oils, etc. would be used to fuel and maintain vehicles and motorized equipment. Accidental spill of any of these substances could impact water and/or groundwater quality. Temporary bulk above-ground storage tanks and 55-gallon drums may be used for fueling and maintenance purposes. As with any liquid, during handling and transfer from one container to another, the potential for an accidental release would exist. Depending on the relative hazard of the material, if a spill were to occur of significant quantity, the accidental release could pose a hazard to construction workers, the public, as well as the environment. While the project would not require long-term operational use, storage, treatment, disposal, or transport of significant quantities of hazardous materials, hazardous materials would be used during project construction activities.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/B-1: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPSW-1a through HAZ-PPSW-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

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- b) **Hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).***

Impact HAZ-VAR/B-2: Construction activities could release previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment. *Less than significant with mitigation (Class II).*

It is not anticipated that construction or operation of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would create a significant hazard to the public due to project upset or accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment. Accidental release of hazardous materials routinely used during construction activities are addressed under Impact HAZ-VAR/B-1, above. No contamination has been identified in the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B corridor. Implementation of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would not involve significant grading or large excavations that would be likely to unearth previously unknown contamination. Therefore, the potential release and mobilization of previously identified and unidentified hazardous materials would be relatively low.

Moreover, pursuant to Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-1c, PacifiCorp would implement appropriate safety measures to ensure the safety of construction workers. In addition,

implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-PPWS-2 would ensure that potential impacts associated with releasing previously unidentified hazardous materials into the environment would be less than significant. For mitigation to reduce impacts related to existing contaminated groundwater, refer to Section 4.7, *Hydrology and Water Quality*.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/B-2: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1c and HAZ-PPSW-2.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

Removal and Disposal of Hazards Materials

The Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would result in removal and disposal of approximately 26 more wood poles than the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Treated wood poles to be removed would either be reused (by the public or PacifiCorp employees) or disposed of as waste pursuant to PacifiCorp's Waste Management Guideline for Treated Wood (PacifiCorp, 2006). If the wood would be reused, PacifiCorp would provide the recipient with a bill of sale and a Consumer Information Sheet that describes the type of preservative used on the specific pole. If the poles are not reusable, then the poles would be disposed of in metal containers at PacifiCorp's storage yard in Yreka. PacifiCorp has an existing contractor that would haul the poles to the City of Yreka's public landfill. The poles would ultimately be shipped to Bio Mass in White City, Oregon. Bio Mass would grind the wood and use it as alternative fuel for its electricity generation facility. If the existing wood poles are wrapped with CuNap wrap, the wrap would be removed, placed in Department of Transportation (USDOT)-approved containers, labeled as hazardous waste with project information, and transported to an appropriate consolidation area (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal and disposal of treated wood would be less than significant (Class III).

In the event that other transmission line waste materials are generated during construction, PacifiCorp has existing contracts with waste disposal vendors (e.g., ONYX and Clean Harbors) who would provide waste management services for the project, including characterization, profiling, manifesting, transportation, and disposal of toxic wastes generated during construction (PacifiCorp, 2006). Impacts related to the removal, disposal, and/or recycling of existing transmission equipment would be less than significant (Class III).

- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. *Less than significant with mitigation* (Class II).**

No existing or proposed schools have been identified within one-quarter mile of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative corridor. However, Weed Elementary and Wyeka Vista Community Day schools are located approximately 1,100 feet (approximately 0.20 mile) from the proposed staging area. Construction activities at the proposed staging area would not be expected to result in releases of hazardous emissions, substances, or waste that might impact either school because PacifiCorp would be required to adhere to Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e (see above), including the development and implementation of hazardous materials best management practices, a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan, a Health and Safety Plan, and a Worker Environmental Awareness Program. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/B-3, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would result in less than significant impacts to nearby schools.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-VAR/B-3: Implement Mitigation Measures HAZ-PPWS-1a through HAZ-PPWS-1e.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant.

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- g) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. *Less than significant* (Class III).**

Several private and public roadways that would require overhead crossings associated with the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative, including Rainbow Way and SR 97, would likely need to be temporarily closed during transmission line stringing and span guy installation activities. These roadways could be used by people evacuating the area during an emergency. However, in the event of an emergency, construction crews would cease all work and would remove any equipment that would impede the flow of traffic. Access for emergency vehicles would be maintained throughout project construction. Although project construction activities may require temporary road closures, appropriate traffic control plans would be followed, and encroachment permits would be obtained from Siskiyou County or Caltrans, depending on the jurisdiction of the road (see Section 4.11, *Traffic and Transportation*). Therefore, the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would not physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. Impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. *Less than significant* (Class III).**

Similar to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, portions of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would be constructed in open grass and woodland areas that are susceptible to wildland fires. Heat or sparks from construction vehicles or equipment have the potential to ignite dry vegetation and cause a fire. Therefore, a moderate fire hazard would exist during construction. PacifiCorp would require vehicles and equipment to primarily use existing roads to access the transmission pole sites; require project personnel to park away from dry vegetation and carry water and shovels or fire extinguishers in times of high fire hazard; and would prohibit trash burning and restrict smoking to cleared areas (PacifiCorp, 2005). By following these preventative measures, the potential for construction of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative to result in wildland fires would be reduced to less than significant (Class III).

During operations, the project could increase the risk of wildland fires in the area because induced current on the new transmission lines could result in sparks that could reach trees and/or vegetation along the transmission line corridor that could result in fire. To minimize the risk of trees falling on the transmission lines or other accidental ignition of a wildland fire from the transmission line, PacifiCorp would follow State vegetation and tree clearing requirements, including CPUC General Order 95, Public Resources Code Section 4293. Implementation of the Mackintosh/ALJ Variation B alternative would not result in a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Operational impacts would be less than significant (Class III).

No Project Alternative

For the purposes of this analysis, the No Project alternative includes the following two assumptions: 1) the project would not be implemented and the existing conditions in the study area would not be changed; and 2) a new transmission line and/or additional power generation would be constructed in or near the study area to supply power to the Weed area. Given the highly speculative nature of the No Project alternative assumptions, this analysis is qualitative in nature.

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.**

Construction of a new transmission line and/or a power plant and operations of a new transmission line under the No Project alternative scenario would result in impacts similar to those that would occur under the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Long-term impacts that would be created by the operations of a power plant under the No Project alternative scenario would likely be potentially significant, given the transport,

use, and disposal of hazardous materials that would be required. Although, a future power plant project would likely be required to go through a CEQA review process and significant long-term impacts associated with routine handling of hazardous materials would be mitigated to the extent feasible, the potential impacts would likely be of greater significance compared to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

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- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.**

Construction of a new transmission line and/or a power plant and operations of a new transmission line under the No Project alternative scenario would result in impacts similar to those that would occur under the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Long-term impacts that would be created by the operations of a power plant under the No Project alternative scenario could result due to the required use of hazardous materials by the power plant and emissions of air pollutants. A future power plant project by its very nature would have a greater risk of upset than would the transmission line and substation upgrades under the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

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- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.**

Construction emissions that would be associated with the No Project alternative scenario would generate emissions of criteria pollutants, including suspended and inhalable particulate matter and equipment exhaust emissions. These emissions could expose sensitive receptors to short-term pollutant concentrations in greater concentrations and over a longer construction period than the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Operations of a fossil fuel power plant would generate long-term emissions of air pollutants, including hazardous air pollutants. This would be a potentially significant impact if any sensitive receptors, such as existing or proposed schools, were located close to the power plant site.

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- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.**

Construction of a transmission line or power plant under the No Project alternative would have temporary effects on traffic flow similar to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment, particularly where the line would be constructed over roadways or immediately adjacent to roadways. Transmission line pole installation across roads and the temporary reduction in travel lanes could result in delays for emergency vehicles passing through

the project vicinity. However, encroachment permits would be obtained that would require provisions for emergency vehicle access. Therefore, the No Project scenario would not likely physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans to any greater extent than would the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

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- h) **Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.**

Heat or sparks from construction vehicles or equipment have the potential to ignite dry vegetation and cause a fire. However, given the speculative nature of the No Project alternative scenario, it is impossible to determine if it would be constructed in open grass or woodland areas that are more or less susceptible to wildland fires than the Proposed Project and Weed Segment. Depending on the location of the No Project scenario and the fire control measures that would be proposed as part of the project(s), impacts would likely be similar to the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

During operations, the No Project scenario involving a new transmission line could increase the risk of wildland fires in the area depending on the location, because induced current on the new transmission lines could result in sparks that could reach trees and/or vegetation along the transmission line corridor that could result in fire. If a new transmission line corridor is required, this could result in exposing greater areas to wildfire risk. However, a transmission line applicant would be required to follow State vegetation and tree clearing requirements, including CPUC General Order 95, Public Resources Code Section 4293. Therefore, the risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires under the No Project alternative would not be substantially different than under the Proposed Project and Weed Segment.

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