



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



Proposed Action Title:	CPEC Millarton Tap
WAPA Region:	Upper Great Plains
Location (County/State):	Stutsman County, ND
CX Determination Number:	2026-UGP-012
CX Determination Expiration Date*:	06/16/2031

**CX is valid until the date above (no longer than five years from when document was signed) or completion of work started prior to the expiration of the CX Determination, unless there are substantial changes to the scope of work, location, or applicable regulations. If such changes occur prior to the expiration of the CX, the Region Environmental Program will review the analysis to ensure the CX is still applicable.*

Proposed Action Description:

WAPA will accommodate a tap for Center Power Electric Cooperative to connect on the Jamestown to Edgeley 115kV transmission line between current structures 14/4 and 14/5. CPEC will build a substation in the southeast corner of the intersection of Hwy 281 and 51st Street SE. WAPA will replace structures 14/3 & 14/7 with taller structures in the same present locations. WAPA will install two 3-pole dead-end structures; one on each side of the tap, which will become structures 14/4 and 14/6. CPEC will install monopole tap structure 14/5 for WAPA to connect to. The structures and anchors will be located within WAPA's existing Right of Way.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

- If construction takes place during the Whooping Crane's active migration windows of March 15 – May 15 or September 10 – November 15, onsite staff must scan project area prior to starting heavy equipment each morning. If Whooping Cranes are found within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site, all work must cease until the cranes have left the area on their own accord.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied (Number and Title):

B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Findings:

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to [10 CFR Part 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of [DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (Jun. 30, 2025).



Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures)



The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B or C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025).

To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures. Additionally, for CXs adopted pursuant to NEPA Section 109 (see DNIP, Appendix C), the originating Federal agency's integral elements or extraordinary circumstances must be in accordance with the applicable requirements.



There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.



The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on [DOE's Section 109 webpage](#).]

Determination:

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

WAPA Authorized Official Signature:

Senior Vice President and Upper Great Plains Regional Manager