



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Program or Field Office: TRIBAL ENERGY PROGRAM
Project Title SD-TEP-ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE
Location: Tribal ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE SD

Proposed Action or Project Description

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) and Citizens Wind propose to complete the required pre-construction activities necessary to secure funding for the proposed 190 MW North Antelope Highlands wind farm, including identification of power purchasers, NEPA permitting requirements, transmission and interconnection studies, and subsequent interconnection agreements required to deliver energy to a specific set of potential purchasers. The proposed tasks include (1) preliminary project assessments—economic, environmental, and cultural assessments; (2) installation of meteorological towers to collect environmental data; (3) community outreach and education; (4) initiation of an initial avian and bat review including radar studies, bird and bat surveys, etc.; (5) continued analysis of wind, wind turbine, and array design analyses; (6) preliminary site layout design modeling, conduct initial project engineering work to better define the project; (7) conduct environmental studies; (8) identify capacity options for interconnection and any transmission service requirements, preliminary power flow analyses, initiation of stability and system impact studies; (9) evaluate design of final layout, including array, collector system, substation, and associated facilities design; and (10) develop detailed, updated construction cost estimates. Since this phase of the project is primarily preliminary project assessments, permitting activities, environmental reviews, and pre-construction studies, as well as preparation of the NEPA document, DOE has determined that this phase of the project can be categorically excluded. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will serve as the lead agency for NEPA purposes.

Conditions: None

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: A9, B3.1

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR10 21

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

Gary S. Hartman

Date Determined: 7/6/2010



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



Comments:

Webmaster: