



# U.S. Department of Energy

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Construct New Sioux Falls Maintenance Building

Program or Field Office: SDMO

Location(s) (City/County/State): Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota

Proposed Action Description:

Construct a new maintenance building and septic drainage field on existing WAPA-owned land and adjacent to the existing Sioux Falls Substation. Existing dirt access roads will be utilized. No environmental concerns or extraordinary circumstances were identified:

- Project is located in an "Area of minimal hazard (Zone X)" for floodplain. There are no wetlands or water resources in the project footprint.
- The parcel is classified as Prime Farmland. No loss of potential agricultural land because the parcel is unsuitable for farming due to previous development (the surrounding highway bypass interchange, substation, residences and commercial buildings).
- Project is not located in areas of formally classified lands ((National Parks, National Monuments or Battlefields, Wild/Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Areas, recreational rivers, lake shores and trails, national wildlife refuges, State parks, or Native American Reservation land) & will have limited aesthetic impact.
- There is a Bald Eagle nest ~3/4 of a mile away, but it is in the river bottom with a topographic barrier and beyond two transmission lines, so it is unlikely to be disturbed by construction due to project activities being in an area with pre-existing high human activity and noise levels.
- General wildlife habitat is limited & low value. Wildlife use is expected to be very low as well, due to it being nestled in areas already developed.
- There are no known occurrences of, and no habitat for, Western Prairie-Fringed Orchid or Rufa Red Knot. No designated critical habitat.
- Although several (~3) trees would be removed in the Northern Long-Eared Bat range, they are isolated and unsuitable for roosting.
- WAPA surveyed the project area and determined No Historic Properties Affected for the Proposed Action. SHPO concurrence received.
- Desktop qualitative review of impacts to transportation, air quality, hazardous materials, human health and safety, socioeconomic and community resources. No concerns identified.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.15 - Support buildings

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) 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; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) 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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of 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.

NEPA Compliance Officer: **John D. Russell** Digitally signed by John D. Russell  
Date: 2021.08.26 08:51:50 -06'00'

Date Determined: 08/26/2021