# **Categorical Exclusion Determination**

Western Area Power Administration Department of Energy



Proposed Action: ODA-TCY Helicopter Landing Zone near Tower 120-4

Project No.: 1001530224

Project Manager Dean Faller

Location: Yolo County

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

## **Description of the Proposed Action:**

Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region (WAPA) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of several federally owned and operated transmission lines throughout California, including the Olinda Tracy line (ODA-TCY), located in northern California from Tracy to Olinda substations. Part of this responsibility includes ensuring WAPA maintains reliable access to transmission towers and other facilities to comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council, and WAPA directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system.

WAPA proposes to replace insulators along the ODA-TCY transmission line. To accomplish this task, one landing zone (LZ) outside the right -of-way near Tower 120-4 will be used in Yolo county on private land. Equipment will be staged at the landing zone.

# Findings:

In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), WAPA has determined that the proposed action:

(1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);

(2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and

(3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, WAPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.



Date: 10/21/24

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

# **Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist**

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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## **Project Site Description**

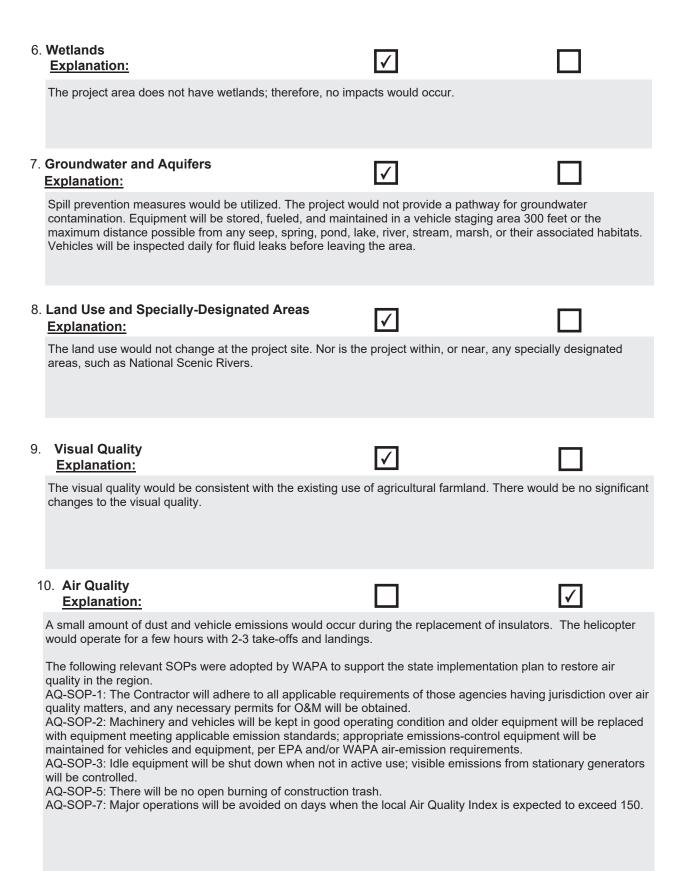
The proposed helicopter landing zone is located in Yolo County, California. The site is located 1 mile northeast of Tower 120-4 on private farmland in a well disturbed area adjacent to farming type structures nearby. The site is surrounded by farmland.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions	
1. Historic and Cultural Resources Explanation:	$\checkmark$		
From background research, no known cultural i	ied in the landing zone site. No		

From background research, no known cultural resource concerns were identified in the landing zone site. No ground disturbance is required. Natural Resources will be contacted immediately if archaeological, paleontological, or historic resources are found.

2.	Geology and Soils Explanation:	$\checkmark$	
	Ground disturbance is not anticipated in this project; therefore	ore, no impacts would occur.	
	<b>Plants</b> including Federal/state special-status species and habitats) Explanation:	$\checkmark$	
	No special-status plants are known or expected at the landi towers and will be surveyed.	ng zones. Elderberry shrubs m	ay be located near the
	<b>Wildlife</b> including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)		_
	Explanation:	$\checkmark$	
	No special status species or habitat have been identified at feet southwest of Goodnow Slough. Bird surveys are conducted during nesting season prior to u		ing zone site is 1,255
	Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)		
	Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplain locations are sufficient distance from the creeks such that n		would occur. The



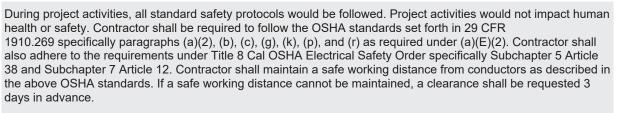
#### 11. Noise

### **Explanation:**

There are no residences within the project location. Helicopter noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours.

#### 12. Human Health and Safety

#### **Explanation**:



## **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

 $\checkmark$ 

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

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.

Explanation, if necessary:

Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

### Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

**Description:** WAPA has notified and received permission from the landowner to use the landing zone site.

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



Date: 10/21/24