



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program - Eastern Division (P-SMBP--ED): Rate Order No. WAPA-218

Program or Field Office: Upper Great Plains Region (UGP)

Location(s) (City/County/State): Region-wide

Proposed Action Description:

WAPA-UGP is proposing to use new formula-based methodology for UGP's rate implementation and annual update procedures with changes related to the planned RTO expansion in the Western Interconnection to: (1) Terminate the Balancing Authority Area (BAA)-related ancillary services (and associated worksheets in the Rate Formula Templates) for Regulation and Frequency Response Service, Operating Reserves—Spinning Reserve Service and Supplemental Reserve Service, Energy Imbalance Service (EI), and Generator Imbalance Service (GI); (2) Incorporate changes in the Rate Formula Templates to calculate the Annual Transmission Revenue Requirement (ATRR) for the Miles City Direct Current (DC) Tie for SPP's settlements purposes related to SPP's proposed DC Tie Access Charge; (3) Incorporate changes in the Rate Formula Templates to calculate the subtotals of the ATRR for the SPP West and East BAAs separately for SPP's settlements purposes; (4) Incorporate a new worksheet in the Rate Formula Templates to calculate the Incremental Market Efficiency Use 4 (Incremental MEU) share for the Miles City DC Tie; (5) Incorporate changes in the Rate Formula Templates to calculate the ATRRs for SPP Base Plan Upgrades separately for SPP's settlements purposes in each of the SPP West and East BAAs; and (6) Update, as needed, the existing Rate Formula Templates to smooth the true-up process impacts, increase transparency, and incorporate the changes noted above.

The existing UGP rates for services expire on September 30, 2025, but are being extended under a separate rate process, Rate Order No. WAPA-217, to continue to provide existing rate data to SPP between October 1, 2025, and April 1, 2026, the final implementation date of the planned RTO expansion into the Western Interconnection.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.3 - Electric power marketing rate changes

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 RUSSELL** Date: 2025.04.07 09:32:36 -06'00'

Date Determined: 04/07/2025