



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Categorical Exclusion Number:	CX-270821
Loan Application Number:	EIR0044
Proposed Action Title:	Jordan Dam – Martin Dam B 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project
Program of Field Office:	Loan Programs Office
Location(s) (City/County/State):	Elmore County, Alabama

Proposed Action Description:

Description of Categorically Excluded Action

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Loan Programs Office (LPO), may provide loan guarantees for energy infrastructure projects under Section 1706 of Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 16517) and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (July 4, 2025)) (the Energy Dominance Financing or EDF Program). The purpose of the EDF Program is to finance projects and facilities in the U.S. that retool, repower, repurpose, or replace energy infrastructure that has ceased operations or enable operating energy infrastructure to increase capacity or output (42 U.S.C. 16517(a)(2) and Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (July 4, 2025)).

LPO is considering whether to issue a loan guarantee of a funding facility to Alabama Power Company (APC) pursuant to its authority under the EDF Program. In its application, APC has identified the Jordan Dam – Martin Dam B 115kV Transmission Line Project (Project) for inclusion in the funding facility that is the subject of DOE's loan guarantee. APC may request inclusion of multiple individual projects with independent utility in the funding facility that is the subject of the DOE loan guarantee; accordingly, DOE will complete an environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for these projects prior to their inclusion in the funding facility that is the subject of DOE's loan guarantee.

The Project includes the rebuild of an overhead electric powerline that will address constraints that limit the electrical grid's ability to integrate the electrical output various generation sources. The project will increase the current carrying capacity of the existing infrastructure safely, improve efficiency, reducing power loss potential, and enhancing reliability. Accordingly, the Proposed Action considered in this record of categorical exclusion is LPO's issuance of Federal financial support for the Project.

Project Description

The Jordan Dam – Martin Dam B 115kV transmission line is located on existing APC 50-foot right-of-way (ROW) in Elmore County, Alabama. This line is adjacent to the Jordan Dam-Martin Dam A 115kV transmission line which is confined to a separate 50-foot-wide maintained ROW. The western terminus of the Project is the Jordan Dam Transmission Substation (located approximately 6 miles north of the City of Wetumpka in Elmore County) and the eastern terminus is the Martin Dam Transmission Substation, located approximately 10 miles southwest of the City of Dadeville. The Project is approximately 20.8 miles long within a 50-foot-wide ROW, encompassing approximately 126.6 acres of land.

The Project will include the construction and installation of approximately 20.8 miles of 115-kV overhead electric powerline. This work will require the installation of 111 new structures and the reuse of 25 existing structures within the existing ROW. Old structures will be removed. Since the ROW already supports an existing electric powerline, existing access roads will be used to construct, operate and maintain the Project. Laydown areas necessary for Project construction will be located within the existing ROW, outside of environmentally sensitive areas to the greatest extent possible in order to limit temporary impacts. No new ROW clearing is proposed (e.g., no tree or vegetation clearing). Following construction, the area will be restored and stabilized in accordance with the Project's Construction Best Management Practices Plan (CBMPP) and the Alabama



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Handbook for Erosion Control and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites Urban Areas (Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Commission [ALSWCC], 2018).

The Project is scheduled to begin construction October 1, 2025, with a projected in-service date of October 1, 2026.

The powerline will span wetlands and water features present within the corridor. Further, support pole structures will be positioned to completely avoid impacts to jurisdictional wetland features. Existing support pole structures within jurisdictional wetlands will remain in place and no new proposed support pole structures will be located within jurisdictional wetlands. Since the powerline will be constructed within an existing, previously cleared/graded and regularly maintained ROW within which another powerline has already been built, the Project will utilize existing access roads and water crossings to the greatest extent practicable that were previously installed without the need to construct new ones, thus minimizing the impacts to water resources.

Further, best management practices (including timber matting, installation of stringent erosion and sediment control measures, re-establishment of pre-construction ground contours, etc.) will be incorporated into construction plans.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, LPO's review of the Project found that there would be *no effect* to designated critical habitat. Additionally, for thirteen Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species with potential to occur in the Project area (alligator snapping turtle, Alabama moccasinshell, Coosa moccasinshell, finlined pocketbook, ovate clubshell, southern clubshell, southern pigtoe, triangular kidneyshell, interrupted rocksnail, rough hornsnail, tulotoma snail, monarch butterfly, and Georgia rockcress), LPO has reached a *no effect* determination based on 1) no in-water or in-stream work proposed, 2) no tree or vegetation clearing proposed, and 3) the results of desktop and field-based assessments indicating no ground disturbance within suitable habitat areas for these species.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), LPO consulted with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). On September 10, 2025, the Alabama SHPO concurred with LPO's finding of no historic properties affected for this project. DOE identified and contacted six federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes (Tribes) that may have an interest in the Project area (Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas; Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town; Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and Seminole Tribe of Florida.). No comments were received from these Tribes. If human remains are encountered during construction, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975 §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) would be followed. This stipulation would be included in construction plans.

The Project crosses the Coosa River, a navigable waterway subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. APC acquired a Section 10 authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 2018 when the original overhead transmission line was constructed (Permit #SAM-2018-00273-APW). This authorization remains valid; no new authorizations are required. Further, it is anticipated that crossing of the Coosa River for this undertaking would be authorized by the USACE under a non-notifying Nationwide Permit 3 (Maintenance) since the transmission line would only span this water feature and the final sag of the transmission line would not be lower than currently existing infrastructure.

Three project segments, comprising approximately 2,361 feet (0.45 miles), will cross mapped regulatory floodway, 100-year floodplains, and 500-year floodplains. Accordingly, LPO notified county and Federal emergency management agencies and published a Notice of Floodplain Action for a 15-day public comment period. No comments were received.

New structure placement will meet local and federal floodplain management requirements. The new structures will be designed to not affect base flood elevations. Work areas will be temporary and will not require modifications to site elevations. Temporary erosion controls will be installed and maintained until the work areas are restored and stabilized. Base flood elevations will not be affected by the Project.

The following permits or authorizations have been or will be obtained prior to construction:



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

- USACE Clean Water Act 404/10 Permit – Nationwide Permit Nos. 3 (NWP 3) for Maintenance and 57 (NWP 57) for Electric Utility line and Telecommunications Activities.
- Section 402 National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) - Stormwater discharges associated with construction activity for standalone construction projects (Permit No. ALR1000000)

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Categorical Exclusion(s) Description:

The Project is consistent with and covered by DOE categorical exclusions in 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021, Appendix B4, Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Electric Power and Transmission. Specifically, the Project is covered by DOE Categorical Exclusion B4.13 Upgrading and Rebuilding Existing Powerlines.

B4.13 Upgrading and Rebuilding Existing Powerlines

Upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines, which may involve relocations of small segments of the powerlines within an existing powerline right-of-way or within otherwise previously disturbed or developed lands (as discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(1)). Upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines also may involve widening an existing powerline right-of-way to meet current electrical standards if the widening remains within previously disturbed or developed lands and only extends into a small area beyond such as lands as needed to comply with applicable electrical standards. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements, including the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part; and would incorporate appropriate design and construction standards, control technologies, and best management practices. This exclusion does not apply to underwater powerlines. As used in this categorical exclusion, "small" has the meaning discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(2).

Per 10 CFR 1021.102, application of categorical exclusions (classes of actions that normally do not require EAs or EISs), the following clarifications are provided to assist in the appropriate application of categorical exclusions that employ the terms or phrases "previously disturbed or developed" and "small" or "small-scale":

- (1) *"Previously disturbed or developed" refers to land that has been changed such that its functioning ecological processes have been and remain altered by human activity. The phrase encompasses areas that have been transformed from natural cover to nonnative species or a managed state, including, but not limited to, utility and electric power transmission corridors and rights-of-way, and other areas where active utilities and currently used roads are readily available.*
- (2) *DOE considers terms such as "small" and "small-scale" in the context of the particular proposal, including its proposed location. In assessing whether a proposed action is small, in addition to the actual magnitude of the proposal, DOE considers factors such as industry norms, the relationship of the proposed action to similar types of development in the vicinity of the proposed action, and expected outputs of emissions or waste. When considering the physical size of a proposed facility, for example, DOE would review the surrounding land uses, the scale of the proposed facility relative to existing development, and the capacity of existing roads and other infrastructure to support the proposed action.*

Regulatory Requirements Defined in 10 CFR § 1021

The proposed loan guarantee for actions described above was subjected to an environmental due diligence review by DOE LPO staff to ensure consistency with the specific category of action (categorical exclusion) contained in Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 1021 and the conditions for applying categorical exclusions specified in Section 102 of Part 1021. To ensure that the



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

requirements of Appendix B were met, LPO Environmental Compliance obtained numerous project-related documents between March and September 2025 and participated in several conference calls with APC staff to ensure a complete understanding of the activities associated with the Project.

The environmental due diligence review determined that there is no controversy regarding the potential environmental impacts of the Project, and that the actions associated with the loan guarantee would not adversely affect any physical, biological, or socio-cultural resources associated with the deployment of the project. The environmental due diligence review determined the Proposed Action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Signature by APC's designated representative in the Corporate Validation section (below) is an indication of APC's concurrence with the findings and determinations presented herein.

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](#) (June 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 and 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.

- ☒ 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](#).]

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer, 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.

Corporate Validation:

Applicant Signatory:

Stacey Turner
Vice President, Environmental Affairs
Alabama Power Company

Signature:

Date:

9.23.25

DOE Signatory:

Todd Stribley
Director, Environmental Compliance
DOE Loan Programs Office

Signature:

Date Determined:

9/23/2025