



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Categorical Exclusion Number:	CX-270887
Loan Application Number:	EIR0044
Proposed Action Title:	Crooked Creek-Georgia 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild
Program of Field Office:	Office of Energy Dominance Financing
Location(s) (City/County/State):	Randolph and Cleburne Counties, Alabama

Proposed Action Description:

Description of Categorically Excluded Action

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF), 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)).

EDF 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 Crooked Creek-Georgia 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild 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 will rebuild approximately 29.6 miles of existing overhead transmission line infrastructure within its existing 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) between the existing Crooked Creek substation (southern terminus) and the existing Indian Creek substation at the Georgia-Alabama border (northern terminus). This Project will address constraints that limit the electrical grid's ability to integrate additional generation sources. Additionally, the Project will increase the carrying capacity of the existing infrastructure safely, improve efficiency, reduce power loss potential, and enhance reliability. Accordingly, the Proposed Action considered in this record of categorical exclusion is EDF's issuance of Federal financial support for the Project.

Project Description

The Project includes rebuilding 29.6 miles of the existing Crooked Creek-Georgia 115kV Transmission Line within a 100-foot-wide APC ROW. The Project originates at the existing Crooked Creek TS 115kV Substation (southern terminus) located in Randolph County and routes around the Tallapoosa River and R.L. Harris Reservoir for approximately 3 miles before turning northeast for approximately 26.6 miles, passing Ranburne DS, and terminating in proximity to the existing Indian Creek MS at the Georgia-Alabama border (northern terminus) in Cleburne County.

The Project includes the installation of 171 replacement structures, reconductoring, and vegetation clearing of approximately 13 miles of the ROW. Generally, APC constructs utilities along the centerline of acquired, surveyed ROW; however, a 13-mile section of the existing Crooked Creek-Georgia 115kV Transmission Line was installed at an offset from the ROW centerline when it was constructed in 1928. As a result, the full 100-foot ROW was not cleared during the original construction. The Project involves clearing the remaining forested land within the ROW, a maximum of 63 acres, between proposed structure



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The Project involves the replacement of one (1) structure within a 100-year floodplain with no additional or new impacts to floodplains or floodways. As the existing structure is within the 100-year floodplain, no net change to base flood elevations is anticipated.

The Project would require approximately 3.5 acres of clearing within the Atlantic Coast Conservancy conservation easement; however, this clearing will occur within an established utility corridor owned by APC and is not anticipated to adversely affect special designated lands.

The Project requires the following permits:

- Section 402 National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES), Stormwater discharges associated with construction activity for standalone construction projects (Permit No. ALR1000000) – The Project includes construction activities resulting in more than one acre of land disturbance. APC will acquire an ADEM Construction Stormwater permit to address erosion and sediment controls during the proposed rebuild.
- Clean Water Act Section 404/10 Permit, Nationwide Permit No. 57 (NWP 57) for Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities - This project meets the requirements of non-notifying NWP 57; no further action is required. The Project may involve minimal temporary wetland impacts (i.e., matting); however, no temporary impacts to waterbodies are anticipated and no permanent impacts to wetlands or waterbody features are proposed. The Project would not require a pre-construction notification (PCN) or mitigation measures for the proposed temporary impacts. Furthermore, APC will ensure that the final sag height of the rebuilt transmission line is equal to or above current conditions and does not necessitate additional permitting with the USACE and ADEM for stream crossings.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.13 - Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

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 the following DOE Categorical Exclusions:

B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines

Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).

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 section 5.4(b)(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 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 this appendix; and would incorporate appropriate design and construction standards,



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- ☒ 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.

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:

Comments: _____

Applicant Signatory: Stacey Turner
Vice President, Environmental Affairs
Alabama Power Company

Signature:

Date:

12-15-25

DOE Signatory: Todd Stribley
Director, Environmental Programs
DOE Office of Energy Dominance
Financing

Signature:

Date Determined:

12/16/2025