

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

**Proposed Action:** Routine Activities

**Location:** Western Area Power Administration Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region

**Description of the Proposed Actions:** The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region (UGP) routinely conducts activities that are part of the day-to-day operations of its facilities and take place at all locations within its six-state service area. These actions do not vary from year to year, are considered as individual actions, and are not part of larger or more extensive actions or programs. Given the routine nature of the actions covered by this determination it will require annual reissuance, but will remain in effect until WAPA determines that revisions are necessary. WAPA will, however, periodically review this determination and the actions taken under it, to ensure that environmental concerns are not overlooked.

**Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):** To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, WAPA shall determine the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within classes of actions that are listed in Appendix A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the activities would not:
  - a. Threaten a violation of applicable, statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders;
  - b. 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;
  - c. 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; or
  - d. Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to: (i) Property (e.g. sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local government, Federally recognized Indian tribe or property determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; (ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act); (ii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains; (iii) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national

parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, Federal and state wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries; (iv) Prime agriculture lands; (v) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and

- e. 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.
- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
  - 3) The proposal is not “closely related” to other actions and “therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement” (40 CFR 1501.9(e)(1)) and is not precluded by CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

This CX determination covers the following categories of actions inclusively:

- Activities applicable to general agency actions as defined by **Appendix A** of Subpart D, DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures;
- **B1.3** Routine maintenance/custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures, vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control;
- **B1.4** Installation/modification of air conditioning systems for existing equipment;
- **B1.6** Installation/modification of retention tanks, small basins to control runoff, spills;
- **B1.7** Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment;
- **B1.9** Placement of airway safety markings/painting (not lighting) of existing lines, antennas
- **B1.11** Installation of fencing with no potential to significantly impede wildlife population movement or surface water flow;
- **B1.13** Construction, acquisition, and relocation of short access roads;
- **B1.16** Removal of asbestos-containing materials from buildings;
- **B1.17** Removal of polychlorinated biphenyl-containing items from buildings, other aboveground locations;
- **B1.19** Modifying or removal of microwave or radio communication towers;
- **B1.20** Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat;
- **B1.22** Relocation of buildings to an already developed area;
- **B1.23** Demolition/disposal of buildings, equipment, and support structures;
- **B1.24** Property transfers;

- **B1.25** Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management;
- **B1.29** Disposal facilities for construction and demolition waste;
- **B1.30** Transfer actions, in which the predominant activity is transportation;
- **B1.33** Stormwater runoff control;
- **B1.34** Lead-based paint containment, removal, and disposal;
- **B1.36** Determinations of excess real property;
- **B2.2** Installation of/improvements to building instrumentation (remote controls, emergency warning systems, monitors);
- **B2.3** Installation of/improvements to equipment for personnel safety and health;
- **B2.5** Safety and environmental improvements of a facility, replacement/upgrade of facility components;
- **B3.2** Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes;
- **B4.1** Contracts/policies/marketing and allocation plans related to electric power acquisition (using existing transmission system and generation resources operating within normal operating limits);
- **B4.2** Export of electric energy;
- **B4.3** Electric power marketing rates changes, within normal operating limits;
- **B4.4** Power marketing services and power management activities within normal operating limits;
- **B4.6** Additions/modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed area;
- **B4.7** Adding fiber optic cables to transmission facilities or burying fiber optic cable in existing powerline right of ways;
- **B4.8** New electricity transmission agreements, and modifications to existing transmission arrangements, for transfer of power;
- **B4.10** Deactivation, dismantling, and removal of electric powerlines and substations;
- **B4.11** Construction or modification of electric power substations or interconnection facilities;
- **B4.13** Upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines, which may involve relocations of small segments of the powerlines within an existing right-of-way;
- **B5.1** Actions to conserve energy or water with no potential for significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances
- **B5.6** Oil spill cleanup and disposal operations; and,
- **B6.1** Small-scale, short-term cleanup actions under RCRA or other authorities, less than 10 million dollars in cost.

**Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Applied:** The categories of actions described above are routine activities specifically listed in the DOE NEPA Regulations 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendices A1-15 and Appendix B.

**Determination:** Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning routine proposed actions, NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have determined that proposed actions which fit within the specified classes of actions, and

which meet the other regulatory requirements set forth above are hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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John Russell  
UGP NEPA Compliance Officer

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Date