



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

<u>Categorical Exclusion Number:</u>	CX-270906
<u>Loan Application Number:</u>	EIR0044
<u>Proposed Action Title:</u>	Bouldin Unit 3 Powerhouse Turbine Replacement/Upgrade
<u>Program of Field Office:</u>	Office of Energy Dominance Financing
<u>Location(s) (City/County/State):</u>	Elmore County, 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 Bouldin Unit 3 Powerhouse Turbine Replacement/Upgrade (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.

DOE’s proposed action is the issuance of a proposed Federal loan guarantee to the Applicant for a complete turbine runner replacement, wicket gate replacement, wicket gate stem bushings installation, turbine and generator shaft and bearing upgrades, and related component upgrades within the existing Bouldin Powerhouse facility.

Project Description

APC’s Bouldin Development is one of seven developments owned and operated by Alabama Power along the Coosa River and one of the five developments that comprise the Coosa River Hydroelectric Project. The Bouldin Development consists of a dam, a powerhouse with intake and three hydroelectric (turbine) generating units within (total rated capacity of 225 MW), and a reservoir, known as Bouldin Forebay. The powerhouse is located at 750 Bouldin Dam Road, Wetumpka, Alabama. APC owns the land occupied by Bouldin dam, powerhouse, and other project works.

APC proposes to upgrade Unit 3 and would include complete turbine runner replacement, wicket gate replacement, wicket gate stem bushings installation, turbine and generator shaft and bearing upgrades, and related component upgrade (proposed action). The unit upgrade is required to address significant maintenance needs and to improve power and efficiency. The upgrade is not expected to result in an increase to the installed capacity of the unit, because it is generator limited (i.e., the generator capacity in MWs is smaller than the turbine capacity in MWs). However, the upgrade is expected to improve an approximate 3 percent efficiency increase at best efficiency point. The maximum discharge of the unit at rated conditions is not expected to increase.



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

The Project also includes modernizing and replacing balance of plant and common support systems essential to efficient operation of the upgraded units just prior to and coincident with the unit upgrade work. These systems support the operations of the turbines and generators, have been repaired as needed for the life of the Bouldin Project, and are now obsolete. To ensure the upgraded units are operating in peak, new condition, these systems must be replaced with new balance of plant and common support systems at the same time the unit is taken apart for the upgrade. If these systems are not replaced prior to startup of the upgraded unit, the new unit could not be guaranteed to meet equipment warranties, and this may cause the unit to have shorter than expected service lives. Balance of plant and common support systems work is required to keep the plant operational as part of the existing FERC license, and approvals are implicit in the current FERC license order dated June 20, 2013, to maintain the plant in operating condition. Balance of plant and common support systems work at the Bouldin Project includes the following items for Unit 3, unless specified otherwise:

- High pressure oil lift
- HPU (replacing old governor system)
- New servo motors
- New switchgear
- New MCC
- New exciters
- New vertical panels
- New DCS (control system)
- New instrumentation for vibration
- New relays
- New electrical cable trays and wiring
- Oil filtration
- New greasing system
- New GSU
- New generator breakers

The Project does not require new facilities or structures to be constructed; all Project implementation activities would take place inside the powerhouse. No new boring, trenching, or other ground disturbance is required for the Project. Existing roads will be utilized to access the powerhouse for the work associated with the Project. APC will utilize existing work areas near the dam for contractor parking, material laydowns, and construction trailers for workers. The work areas are located within previously disturbed areas; no additional ground disturbance will occur in these areas. These work areas are not included within DOE's proposed action; since these areas were developed previously, they are excluded from the loan application. Unit 3 construction is planned to begin March 2026, with commissioning by March 2027.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, EDF's review of the Project found that there would be no effect to listed species or critical habitat. EDF identified that all work will be conducted within the existing Bouldin Powerhouse, and there will be no disturbance from construction or operational activities on listed species or their designated critical habitat.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDF consulted with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). On January 8, 2026, the Alabama SHPO concurred with EDF's finding of no historic properties affected for this project. DOE identified and contacted six (6) federally recognized Tribes: 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 tribes responded.

The Project can be completed under existing authorities provided in section 10(c) of the Federal Power Act and standard Articles 2 and 3 of the Coosa Project license (FERC No. 2146). The proposed action does not require additional permitting.



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

B1.31 – Installation or Relocation of Machinery and Equipment

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 Exclusion(s):

B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Routine maintenance activities and custodial services for buildings, structures, rights-of-way, infrastructures (including, but not limited to, pathways, roads, and railroads), vehicles and equipment, and localized vegetation and pest control, during which operations may be suspended and resumed, provided that the activities would be conducted in a manner in accordance with applicable requirements. Custodial services are activities to preserve facility appearance, working conditions, and sanitation (such as cleaning, window washing, lawn mowing, trash collection, painting, and snow removal). Routine maintenance activities, corrective (that is, repair), preventive, and predictive, are required to maintain and preserve buildings, structures, infrastructures, and equipment in a condition suitable for a facility to be used for its designated purpose. Such maintenance may occur as a result of severe weather (such as hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes), wildfires, and other such events. Routine maintenance may result in replacement to extent that replacement is in-kind and is not a substantial upgrade or improvement. In-kind replacement includes installation of new components to replace outmoded components, provided that the replacement does not result in a significant change in the expected useful life, design capacity, or function of the facility. Routine maintenance does not include replacement of a major component that significantly extends the originally intended useful life of the facility (for example, it does not include the replacement of a reactor vessel near the end of its useful life). Routine maintenance activities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Repair or replacement of facility equipment, such as lathes, mills, pumps, and presses;*
- (b) Door and window repair or replacement;*
- (c) Wall, ceiling, or floor repair or replacement;*
- (d) Reroofing;*
- (e) Plumbing, electrical utility, lighting, and telephone service repair or replacement;*
- (f) Routine replacement of high-efficiency particulate air filters;*
- (g) Inspection and/or treatment of currently installed utility poles;*
- (h) Repair of road embankments;*
- (i) Repair or replacement of fire protection sprinkler systems;*
- (j) Road and parking area resurfacing, including construction of temporary access to facilitate*
- (k) resurfacing, and scraping and grading of unpaved surfaces;*
- (l) Erosion control and soil stabilization measures (such as reseeding, gabions, grading, and revegetation);*



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

(m) Surveillance and maintenance of surplus facilities in accordance with DOE Order 435.1, "Radioactive Waste Management," or its successor; Repair and maintenance of transmission facilities, such as replacement of conductors of the same nominal voltage, poles, circuit breakers, transformers, capacitors, crossarms, insulators, and downed powerlines, in accordance, where appropriate, with 40 CFR part 761 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions) or its successor;

(o) Routine testing and calibration of facility components, subsystems, or portable equipment (such as control valves, in-core monitoring devices, transformers, capacitors, monitoring wells, lysimeters, weather stations, and flumes);

(p) Routine decontamination of the surfaces of equipment, rooms, hot cells, or other interior surfaces of buildings (by such activities as wiping with rags, using strippable latex, and minor vacuuming), and removal of contaminated intact equipment and other material (not including spent nuclear fuel or special nuclear material in nuclear reactors); and

(q) Removal of debris.

B1.31 Installation or Relocation of Machinery and Equipment

Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

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 EDF staff to ensure consistency with the specific category of action (categorical exclusion) contained in Appendix B of 10



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

CFR Part 1021 and the conditions for applying categorical exclusions specified in Section 102 of Part 1021. To ensure that the requirements of Appendix B were met, EDF Environmental Compliance obtained numerous project-related documents between November 2025 and February 2026 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.



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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: **2/17/2026**

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

Signature: _____

Date Determined: **2/17/2026**