



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



<u>Proposed Action Title:</u>	SMUD Electric and Fiber Installation
<u>WAPA Region:</u>	Sierra Nevada Region
<u>Location (County/State):</u>	Sacramento County, California
<u>CX Determination Number:</u>	2026-SNR-003
<u>CX Determination Expiration Date*:</u>	12/31/2027

**CX is valid until the date above (no longer than five years from when document was signed) or completion of work started prior to the expiration of the CX Determination, unless there are substantial changes to the scope of work, location, or applicable regulations. If such changes occur prior to the expiration of the CX, the Region Environmental Program will review the analysis to ensure the CX is still applicable.*

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region (WAPA) markets and transmits power to several wholesale customers in California. WAPA proposes to install an underground backup power feed and fiber optic line from its Folsom substation to an adjacent property and facility owned by an existing power customer. This will involve approximately 600' of trenching and/or directional drilling across a developed area, currently covered by asphalt and landscaping. After this process, conduits with electric conductors and fiber optic cable will be installed in the trench or bore to connect the two facilities. A breaker and control equipment would be installed at WAPA's Folsom facility for protection; however, activities within the substation are already addressed in WAPA's Environmental Assessment for Right-of-Way Maintenance in the Sacramento Valley, California. Electric power stub-ups are also included in the design, which could be adapted later for electrical outlets or charging stations.

All work will be in previously disturbed or developed facility areas, with the areas near the substation covered by an asphalt surface, and farther from the substation extending across a landscaped area adjacent to a parking lot. Ground disturbance will occur within WAPA's property line and will not exceed 6 feet in depth. Soils will remain on site (preferred) or be tested and disposed of at an appropriate site. Equipment staging areas will be within an existing parking lot on the property. Work is projected to occur in spring 2026 and take approximately two weeks.

Costs of the construction are funded by the benefiting customer, and existing generation resources operating within their normal operating limits would supply the backup power to the customer, if needed. WAPA has an obligation to provide the customer access to fibers on the associated line for the customer, and the two parties would amend one of their existing agreements and grant an easement on WAPA property to reflect this execution of the obligation. No new generation projects are associated with the project.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:



- A cultural monitor will be present. If cultural or paleontological materials are identified during implementation, halt work within a 50-foot buffer of the discovery and contact WAPA's SNR Archaeologist immediately.
- A pre-construction biological survey is required if work will occur during nesting season (January 1-August 15, consistent with conservation measures in the Environmental Assessment for Right-of-Way Maintenance in the Sacramento Valley, California).
- The project will comply with Sacramento Valley air quality SOPs:
 - AQ-SOP-1: WAPA will adhere to all requirements of those agencies having jurisdiction over air quality matters, and any necessary permits for O&M activities will be obtained.
 - AQ-SOP-2: Machinery and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition. Equipment will be replaced to ensure compliance with California emission standards; appropriate emissions-control equipment will be maintained for vehicles and equipment, per California, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and WAPA air-emission requirements.
 - AQ-SOP-3: Idle equipment will be shut down when not in active use; visible emissions from stationary generators will be controlled.
 - AQ-SOP-4: Dust-control measures will be implemented in road construction and maintenance, as needed. Trucks transporting loose material will be covered or maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard and will not create any visible dust emissions.
 - AQ-SOP-5: There will be no open burning of construction trash.
 - AQ-SOP-6: Grading activities will cease during periods of high winds (as determined by local air quality management districts).
 - AQ-SOP-7: Major operations will be avoided on days when the local Air Quality Index is expected to exceed 150.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied (Number and Title):

B4.12 Construction of powerlines

B4.7 Fiber optic cable

B4.8 Electricity transmission agreements

B1.24 Property transfers

Findings:

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](#) (Jun. 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 or 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. Additionally, for CXs adopted pursuant to NEPA Section 109 (see DNIP, Appendix C), the originating Federal agency's integral elements or extraordinary circumstances must be in accordance with the applicable requirements.



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](#).]

Determination:

Based on my review of the proposed action, 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.

WAPA Authorized Official Signature:

Title: Sierra Nevada Regional Manager