



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



<u>Proposed Action Title:</u>	Pilot Butte-Copper Mountain 34.5-kV Distribution Line Emergency Structure Replacement and Switch Installation
<u>WAPA Region:</u>	Rocky Mountain
<u>Location (County/State):</u>	Freemont County, Wyoming
<u>CX Determination Number:</u>	2026-RMR-006 (RMR Project number: 2026-002)
<u>CX Determination Expiration Date*:</u>	April 30, 2026

**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 (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), conducted emergency structure and switch replacements on its existing Pilot Butte-Copper Mountain 34.5-kV Distribution Line, in Fremont County, Wyoming. Emergency structure and switch replacements were completed on Structures 40/3 and 40/8 in October 2025, following storm damage. Structure and switch replacement activities included removal of the damaged structures and switches, auguring structure holes, installation of the new wood structures, backfilling the structure holes, installation of new hardware, and installing the switches. The new transmission structures have minor structural updates to meet current WAPA design standards but are visually similar to the original structures. Equipment used for this project included bucket trucks, tracked auger and crane trucks, skid-steer loaders, excavators, utility trucks, pole trailers, and equipment trailers. Work was confined to WAPA's right-of-way (ROW) on Bureau of Indian Affairs Trust Lands of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation and Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation. The ROW was accessed by existing access routes; no new road construction occurred.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

This Categorical Exclusion (CX) covers work that has already been completed. No further work is authorized under this CX. If additional work is required, RMR's Environment Department must be contacted to determine whether additional environmental review is required.

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

B1.3 Routine maintenance

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:

James Wood, Regional Environmental Manager
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration