



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



<u>Proposed Action Title:</u>	Wessington Springs Expansion
<u>WAPA Region:</u>	Upper Great Plains
<u>Location (County/State):</u>	Jerauld, South Dakota
<u>CX Determination Number:</u>	2026-UGP-007
<u>CX Determination Expiration Date*:</u>	04/24/2031

**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:

July 2025, WAPA completed CX Determination on acquisition of 2.07 acres of additional land abutting the north and east perimeter of Wessington Springs Substation. April 2026, WAPA added to the acquisition need for an additional 1.52 acres on the south perimeter. All portions of additional land are to restore site integrity. There were previously soil erosion issues and fence line impairments from farm cattle. With the increased land acquisitions, the surrounding soil issues will be mitigated, and a new fence will be installed along the expanded boundaries. Work will be completed by common means of small tractor equipment and other tools. Project is anticipated to begin spring 2026 after completion of this amendment to the original review.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

None

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

B1.11 Fencing

B1.3 Routine maintenance

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:

Senior Vice President and Upper Great Plains Regional Manager