



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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Subject: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Dominance Financing Completion of Environmental Review for the Proposed Uvalde to West Batesville Transmission Line Project in Uvalde County, Texas

Dear Scott:

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) has issued a Federal loan guarantee to American Electric Power (AEP) pursuant to DOE's authority under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended. The loan guarantee to AEP is intended to provide financing for many projects over the life of the Federal loan guarantee. Each project is reviewed and considered individually prior to being approved for financing under the Federal loan guarantee. This letter confirms that EDF has completed the environmental review of AEP's **Uvalde to West Batesville Transmission Line Project** (Project), in Uvalde County, Texas, prior to approving the Project for financing under the Federal loan guarantee. A description of the Project and EDF's environmental review findings follows.

The Project includes the rebuild of approximately 2.6 miles of existing 138 kV transmission line beginning at the Uvalde Substation and extending west-southwest then south to Structure Dead End (DE) 27 in Uvalde County, Texas. The rebuilding of existing linear transmission line infrastructure will be in the general location of each pole structure within the existing 100-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW). A total of 27 new steel monopoles will be constructed and the existing 24 wood poles with cross bracing structures will be removed. All existing structures, generally 50-foot-tall wood poles, will be removed from the ROW and replaced with new structures, generally 80-foot-tall steel monopoles, and conductors.

Existing roads and ROW will be used for construction. Construction activities consistent with transmission lines typically include erosion and sediment control, crane pad grading, foundation installation, structure assembly and erection, conductor and shield wire installation, and restoration activities following construction completion. Construction is anticipated to begin in September 2026.

EDF conducted the environmental reviews and consultations required by the applicable and relevant environmental statutes and Executive Orders (EOs) associated with its proposed Federal financial support.

The applicable and relevant environmental statutes and EOs included:

1. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536)
2. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 306108)
 - a. EO 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
3. E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, and 10 CFR 1022, Floodplains
4. Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201-4209)

Applicable and Relevant Environmental Review(s)

Section 7, Endangered Species Act

On July 15, 2026, DOE obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service an Official Species List (Project Code 2026-0116755), which resulted in the following species identified as occurring or potentially occurring in the Project area: the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*); the endangered fountain darter (*Etheostoma fonticola*); the threatened San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*) and Texas blind salamander (*Eurycea rathbuni*); the endangered Comal Springs dryopid beetle (*Stygoparnus comalensis*) and Comal Springs riffle beetle (*Heterelmis comalensis*); the endangered Peck's cave amphipod (*Stygobromus* (= *Stygonectes*) *pecki*); the endangered Texas wild-rice (*Zizania texana*); and the proposed threatened monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). No designated critical habitat was identified in the Project area. On July 23, 2026, DOE completed the Texas Statewide Determination key (Texas Dkey) in IPaC, which returned a result of *no effect* for the Comal Springs riffle beetle, Fountain darter, Peck's cave amphipod, piping plover, rufa red knot, San Marcos salamander, Texas blind salamander, and Texas wild-rice, and a result of *not likely to adversely affect* (NLAA) for the Comal Springs dryopid beetle.

DOE understands that as a proposed species under ESA, the monarch butterfly has a different threshold of analysis and the Federal action agency is required to determine if their action would be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species, and if so, request a Conference Consultation with the USFWS. DOE does not believe the Project would be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species given the low potential for habitat and disturbed nature of the existing Project area and associated ROW. In addition, DOE does not anticipate a USFWS decision on whether to formally list the monarch butterfly any time soon; as reflected in the Trump Administration's [Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions](#), the final listing determination for the monarch butterfly is included as a "long-term action."

Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDF consulted with the Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). On August 12, 2026, the Texas SHPO concurred with EDF's finding of no historic properties affected for this project. DOE identified and contacted five federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes (Tribes) that may have an interest in the Project area (Apache Tribe of Oklahoma; Comanche Nation, Oklahoma; Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico; Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, and Tawakonie), Oklahoma). No comments were received from these Tribes.

E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, and 10 CFR 1022, Floodplains

A portion of the existing right-of-way is within the 100-year floodplain. All existing structures

within the 100-year floodplain would be replaced with new structures. Each of these structures would be replaced in the same location. There would be no change to base flood elevations as a result of the in-kind replacement. No net new pole structures will be installed in the floodplain. No 500-year floodplain or regulatory floodways were identified within the project area.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201-4209)

On May 6, 2026, NRCS determined that the Project is exempt from review under the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

EDF notes that AEP is responsible for obtaining permits, approvals, and/or authorizations required for the construction and/or operation of the Project.

Conclusion

With this letter, EDF confirms that it has completed the environmental reviews and consultations required by the applicable and relevant environmental statutes and Executive Orders (EOs) associated with its proposed Federal financial support.

Respectfully,

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Office of Energy Dominance Financing

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