

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW for CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION  
Rocky Mountain Region, Western Area Power Administration**

**STEGALL-WAYSIDE 230KV ACCESS ROAD EXTENSION  
DAWES COUNTY,**

**A. Brief Description of Proposal:**

Western Area Power Administration plans to construct an extension of an existing access road between structures 111-1 and 111-2 on the Stegall-Wayside 230kV transmission line. This road construction will provide access for removal of previously felled hazard trees along the transmission line right-of-way on private land. The project will extend the existing access road to the south from its present terminus at structure 111-1 and terminate before reaching structure 111-2. The extension of the existing road will result in a dead end, and not provide throughway vehicle access to structure 111-2. A truck turnaround area with a radius of approximately 40 feet will be the terminus of the new access road extension. New construction length would be approximately 620 feet by 12 feet wide and surfaced with crushed concrete. Western will use native plant seed mix in the roadbed, cut, and fill slopes and will implement standard best management practices for noxious weed and erosion control. A minor easement acquisition to widen the existing transmission line right of way may be required to accommodate the new road segment.

**B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied:** (See text in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.)

Appendix B 1.13 “Construction, acquisition, and relocation of onsite pathways and short onsite access roads and railroads.”

**C. Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):** (See full text in regulation and attached checklist.)

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders;
- Require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recover, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;
- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or

- Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B. (4)).<sup>1</sup>
- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
  - 3) The proposal is not “connected” to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**D. Special Stipulations Pertaining to the Proposal:**

If the scope of work of this project changes you must contact Western’s Environmental Division for additional environmental review.

If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, Western and the Wyoming SHPO staff shall be contacted, and the material be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

This Categorical Exclusion is valid for 3 years after the signature date. If construction has not commenced within that time, contact Western’s Environmental Division for an updated environmental review prior to construction.

Western will implement standard best management practices for erosion, seeding, and noxious weed control.

**E. Determination:** Based on my review of information provided to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, I determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is categorically excluded from requirements for an EA or an EIS.

C. Shane Collins  
Signature

Date: 5/5/11

C. Shane Collins  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Western Area Power Administration

<sup>1</sup> All reviews and discussions supporting the “no adverse affect” determination have been completed.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Conditions That Are Integral Elements of the Classes of Action in Appendix B That Apply to This Proposal**

<b>Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix A or B to subpart D.		x	
2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effect of the proposal, (e.g. scientific controversy about environmental effects; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources (see NEPA 102(2)(E))		x	
3) The proposal is not connected (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211.		x	
<b>Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Classes of Actions in Appendix B</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>UNKNOWN</b>
1) Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders <sup>1</sup> .	x		
2) Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage disposal, recovery, or treatment actions.	x		
3) Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or intermitted releases; or	x		
4) Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places</li> </ul>	x		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat, or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat;</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act and Floodplains;</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries;</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prime agricultural lands;</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and</li> </ul>	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests.</li> </ul>			

**<sup>1</sup>Applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders (in addition to those listed above)**

Clean Air Act

Complies with U.S. DOE Clean Air Act Conformity Requirements

Department of Energy Floodplain and Wetland Regulations (10 CFR 1022)

Clean Water Act

- Complies with Section 404 requirements
- Complies with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting requirements

Complies with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (February 11, 1994, with Presidential Memorandum)

Complies with Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. (January 10, 2001)