

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

**Beaver Creek - Big Sandy 115-kV Transmission Line  
Structure Replacements - Last Chance Fire  
Washington County, Colorado**

- A. Brief Description of Proposal:** Western Area Power Administration (Western) replaced approximately 55 structures on an existing 10 mile section of the 115-kV transmission line between Beaver Creek and Big Sandy Substations in Washington County, Colorado. The Last Chance fire which began on June 25, 2012, destroyed the existing structures beyond repair. Western crews responded to this emergency and rebuilt the downed powerlines to restore electrical service. The maintenance crews used existing access roads and no grading or construction of new access occurred. Ground disturbance was limited to that associated with utility trucks operating at the replacement structure sites. Emergency work was completed on July 3, 2012.
- B. Number and Title of the Categorical Exclusion Being Applied:** Memorandum from EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY May 12<sup>th</sup> 2010. SUBJECT: Emergencies and the National Environmental Policy Act - (See ATTACHMENT 1, part 2. b). "If the Federal agency proposed emergency response activity is not statutorily exempt from NEPA and the agency has a categorical exclusion (CE) that includes that type of activity, then apply the CE, unless there are extraordinary circumstances that indicate using the CE in this particular case is not appropriate. Agency NEPA personnel should be contacted regarding agency-specific definitions of actions that are "categorically excluded."

**B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines.**

Upgrading or rebuilding approximately 20 miles in length or less existing electric powerlines , which may involve minor relocations of small segments of the powerlines.

- 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 listed in Appendix A or B to Subpart D.

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

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders;
- 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 or 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;
- Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, State, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause

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significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to; those listed in paragraph B. (4) (see Attachment A).

- 2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- 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 emergency work of this project changes, Western’s Environmental Division must be contacted for additional environmental review.

This emergency Categorical Exclusion is valid only from signature date through the end of calendar year 2012. If emergency work is not complete within that time, Western’s Environmental Division must be contacted for an updated environmental review prior to construction.

If any cultural materials are discovered during emergency work, work in the area shall halt immediately, Western and the Colorado 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).

All emergency work will be conducted using existing access roads and no wetlands, brooks, rivers, creeks, and/or streams will be disturbed. Maintenance crews will ensure the minimum construction footprint necessary to allow the installation of the structure poles.

Western would implement standard best management practices for erosion, seeding, and noxious weed control. All equipment used should be cleaned prior to use in the area to prevent transporting of invasive plant or noxious weed seeds.

Construction activities shall be conducted to minimize scarring, or defacing of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of the work. Except where clearing results from the installation of the pulling station sites, vegetation shall be preserved and shall be protected from damage by the construction operations equipment.

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**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.

  
Signature

**Date:** 8/31/12

Gene Iley, Jr.  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region  
Western Area Power Administration

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**ATTACHMENT A**

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

Checklist for Categorical Exclusion Determination, revised Nov. 2011

<b>Application of Categorical Exclusions (1021.410)</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
(b)(1) The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in appendix B to subpart D.		X	
(b)(2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, including, but not limited to, scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the proposal; uncertain effects or effects involving unique or unknown risks; and unresolved conflicts concerning alternate uses of available resources.		X	
(b)(3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. Segmentation can occur when a proposal is broken down into small parts in order to avoid the appearance of significance of the total action. The scope of a proposal must include the consideration of connected and cumulative actions, that is, the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a) (1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or § 1021.211 of this part concerning limitations on actions during EIS preparation.		X	
<b>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, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.	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 or facilities;	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 unpermitted releases;	X		
(4) Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources. An environmentally sensitive resource is typically a resource that has been identified	X		

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as needing protection through Executive Order, statute, or regulation by Federal, state, or local government, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. An action may be categorically excluded if, although sensitive resources are present, the action would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on those resources (such as construction of a building with its foundation well above a sole-source aquifer or upland surface soil removal on a site that has wetlands). Environmentally sensitive resources include, but are not limited to:			
(i) Property (such as sites, buildings, structures, and objects) of historic, archaeological, or architectural significance designated by a Federal, state, or local government, or property determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places;	X		
(ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat) or Federally- proposed or candidate species or their habitat (Endangered Species Act); state-listed or state-proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; Federally-protected marine mammals and Essential Fish Habitat (Marine Mammal Protection Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act); and otherwise Federally-protected species (such as under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act);	X		
(iii) Floodplains and wetlands (as defined in 10 CFR 1022.4, —Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements: “Definitions,” or its successor);	X		
(iv) Areas having a special designation such as Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, scenic areas (such as National Scenic and Historic Trails or National Scenic Areas), and marine sanctuaries;	X		
(v) Prime or unique farmland, or other farmland of statewide or local importance, as defined at 7 CFR 658.2(a), —Farmland Protection Policy Act: Definitions, or its successor;	X		
(vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region); and	X		
(vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rain forests; or	X		

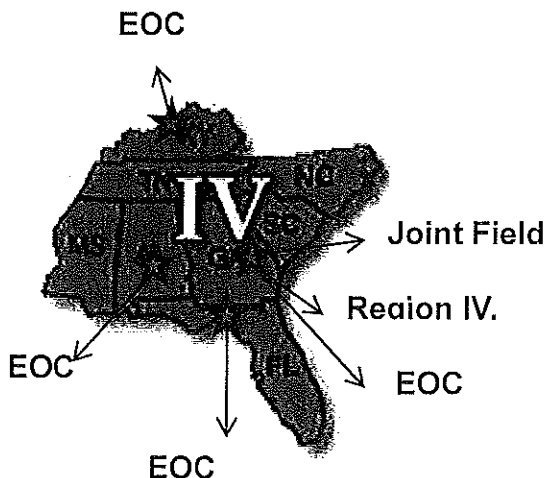
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<p>(5) Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.</p>	<p>X</p>		
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**ESF #12 REGION IV FACT SHEET**



**DOE REGIONAL CONTACTS**

**Primary Regional Coordinator**  
 Katy Kweder  
 Office: (304) 285-4039  
 Cell: (304) 400-9098  
 E-Mail: Katherine.kweder@netl.doe.gov

**Alternate Regional Coordinator**  
 Ryan Watson  
 Office: (304) 285-5252  
 Cell: (304) 710-8343  
 E-Mail: ryan.watson@netl.doe.gov

Regional Locations				
Response Center	Address & Contact Information	Hotel #1	Hotel #2	Hotel #3
R4-RRCC - P  ESF-12 Desk:	3003 Chamblee Tucker Rd Atlanta, GA 30341  Main Tel: 770-220-5200; Web Link	<i>Hertz \$183.00</i> Atlanta Marriott Century Center: 2000 Century Blvd NE Atlanta, GA 30345 404-325-0000	TownePlace Suites: 820 Sidney Marcus Blvd Atlanta, GA 30324 <i>Sold out</i>	Hilton Homewood Suites: 3566 Piedmont Rd. Atlanta, GA 30305 <i>Sold out</i> ①
	ESF-12 Desk: <b>(770) 220-5243</b> <a href="mailto:fema-r4-rrcc-esf12@dhs.gov">fema-r4-rrcc-esf12@dhs.gov</a>		404-949-4820	404-365-0001
FEMA Regional Contact	Phillip May, Regional Director 770-220-5200 <a href="mailto:phillip.may@dhs.gov">phillip.may@dhs.gov</a>			
R4-AL-EOC	5898 County Rd 41 Clanton, AL 35045-5160  Main Tel: 205-280-2200; Web Link	Best Western: 801 Bradberry Ln Clanton, AL 35045  205-280-1006	Guesthouse International Inn: 946 Lake Mitchell Rd Clanton, AL 35045  205-280-0306	Holiday Inn Express: 815 Bradberry Ln Clanton, AL 35046  205-280-1880
	2555 Shumard Oak Blvd Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  Main Tel: 850-413-9969; Web Link	Marriott- Springhill Suites: 1300 Executive Center Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32301  866-315-5166	Hilton Homewood Suites: 2987 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee, FL 32301  850-402-9400	Hilton Garden Inn: 1330 South Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301  850-893-8300
R4-GA-EOC	935 E Confederate Ave SE Atlanta, GA 30316-0055  Main Tel: 404-635-7000; Web Link	Refer to R4-RRCC-P		
	100 Minuteman Pkwy Frankfort, KY 40601-6168  Main Tel: 502-607-1656; Web Link	Capital Plaza Hotel: 405 Wilkinson Blvd Frankfort, KY 40601  502-227-5100	Travel Lodge: 855 Louisville Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601  502-227-2282	Holiday Inn Express: 1000 Vandalay Dr, Frankfort, KY 40601  877-863-4780
R4-GA-JFO Ft Gillem	Atlanta, GA  Main Tel: UNKNOWN	Refer to R4-RRCC-P		
R4-MS-EOC				
	(P=Primary, AO=Admin Office, BU=Backup)			