



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: Construct new transmission line and footings, remove existing transmission line and footings, Garrison Switchyard

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Region, Bismarck ND office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Garrison Switchyard, Garrison Dam, Riverdale, ND.

Proposed Action Description:

Remove approximately 2,500 feet of 115 kv transmission line and 3 support structures and footings.

Remove approximately 500 feet of 230 kv transmission line.

Construct approximately 1700 feet of 115 kv transmission line and 1 new support structure and footing.

Construct approximately 2,000 feet of 230 kv transmission line and 1 new support structure and footing.

See attached drawing for a site plan of the proposed action.

The project supports the reconstruction of the Garrison Switchyard. The Garrison Switchyard reconstruction is being accomplished the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Western Area Power Administration portion of the project work involves less than 10 miles of construction or minor relocation of an existing electric powerline. The project will not disturb any environmentally sensitive resources. The cumulative effect of the reconstruction of the switchyard and the the reconstruction of the powerline will not result in any cumulative significant impacts, and would qualify for a categorical exclusion if the complete project was being accomplished by Western Area Power Administration.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.13 - Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (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; (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; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

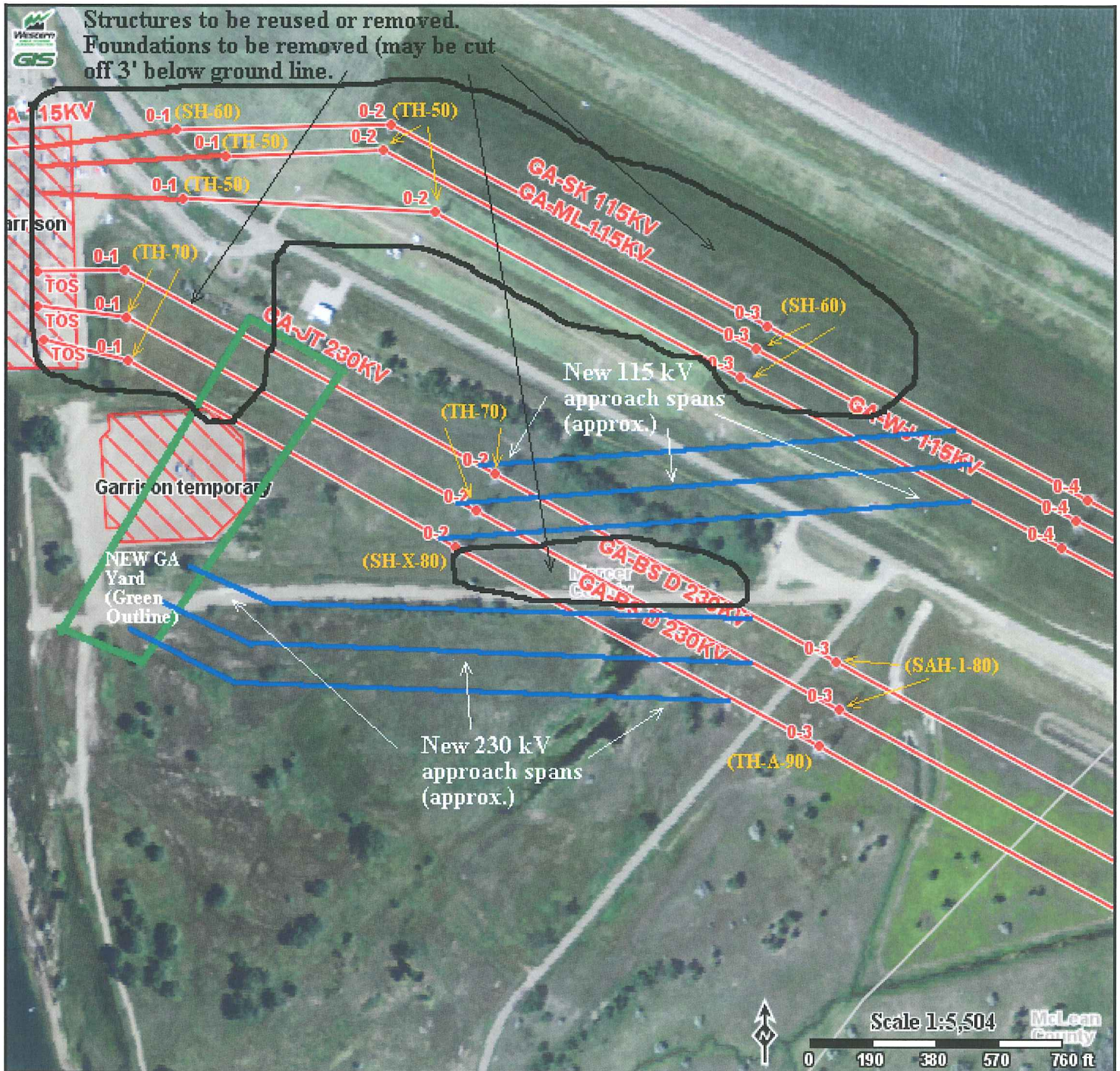
The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: *Nicholas J Stas*

Date Determined: *December 3, 2012*

Garrison Switchyard -- New T-Line Routes and Structure/Footing Removal



Western Area Power Administration
An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy

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